

Phoenix

YAMATO/SPACE

OSAMU TEZUKA

vol. 3

Phoenix

YAMATO/SPACE

This third volume of Osamu Tezuka's acclaimed *Phoenix* saga contains two self-contained stories, one set in Japan's turbulent past, the other in the far-flung future. "Yamato" is a bloody Shakespearean morality play, where betrayal heaps upon betrayal. "Space" is a trip into outer and inner space featuring some of Tezuka's most innovative layouts ever.

"Tezuka's visual imagination is as stunning as his narrative is ambitious...a work guaranteed to blow [readers'] minds."

—*Publishers Weekly*

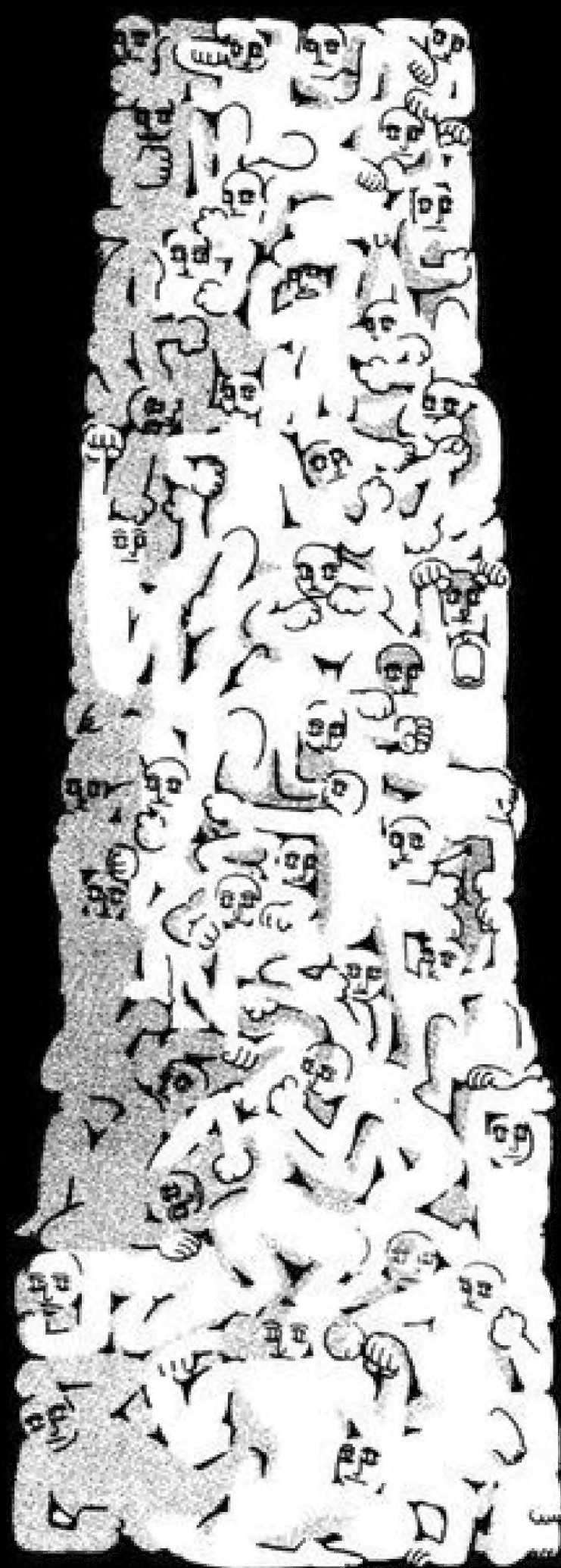
"A milestone in manga translation."

—*The Comics Journal*



phoenix

YAMATO/SPACE



BY OSAMU TEZUKA



Also by Osamu Tezuka available from VIZ:

Adolf: A Tale of the Twentieth Century

Adolf: An Exile in Japan

Adolf: The Half-Aryan

Adolf: Days of Infamy

Adolf: 1945 and All That Remains

Black Jack, Volume 1

Black Jack: Two-Fisted Surgeon

Phoenix: Dawn

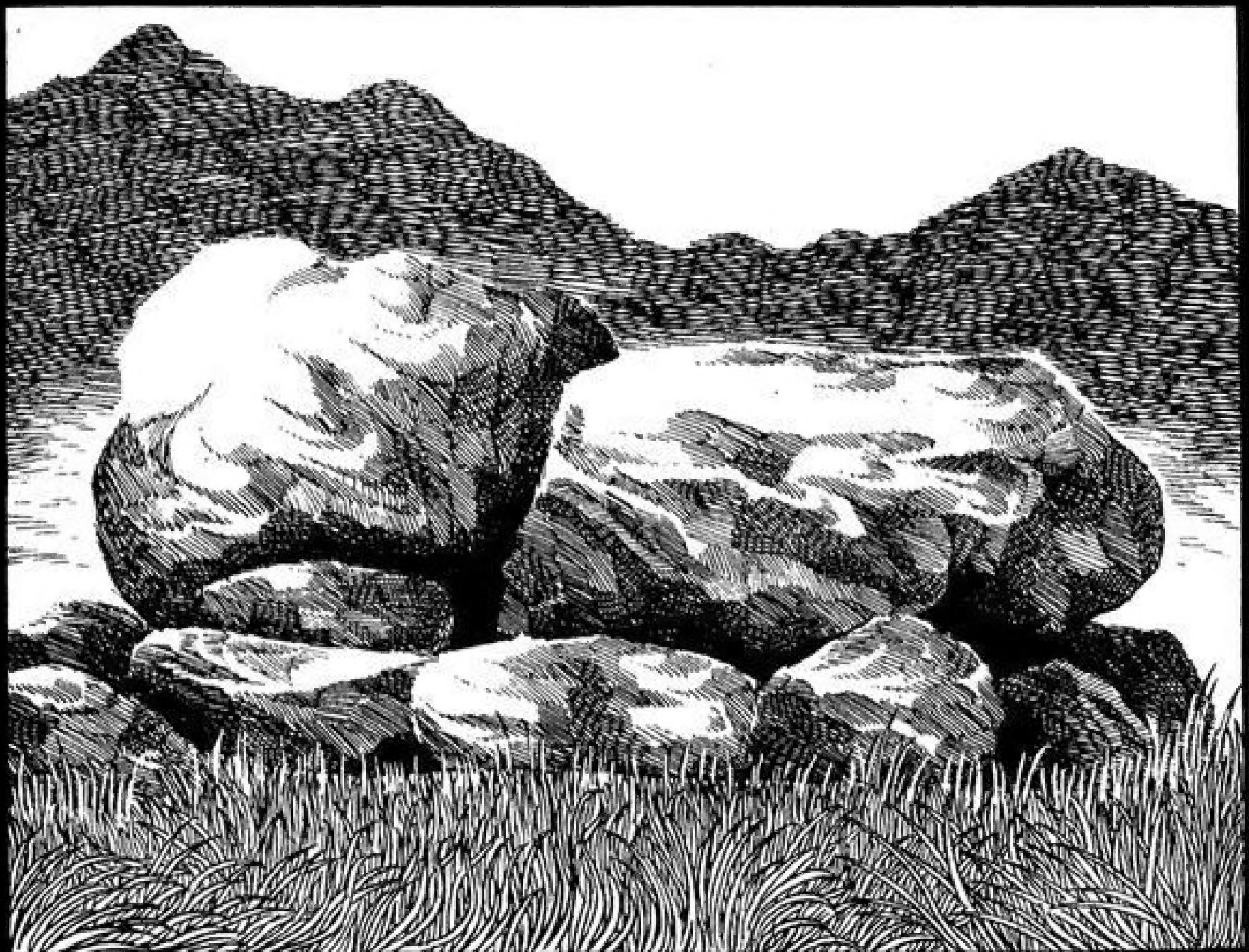
Phoenix: A Tale of the Future

phoenix

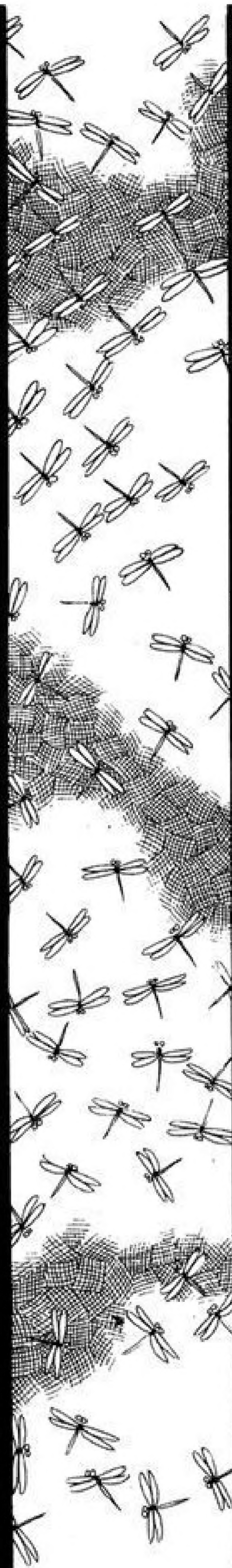
YAMATO

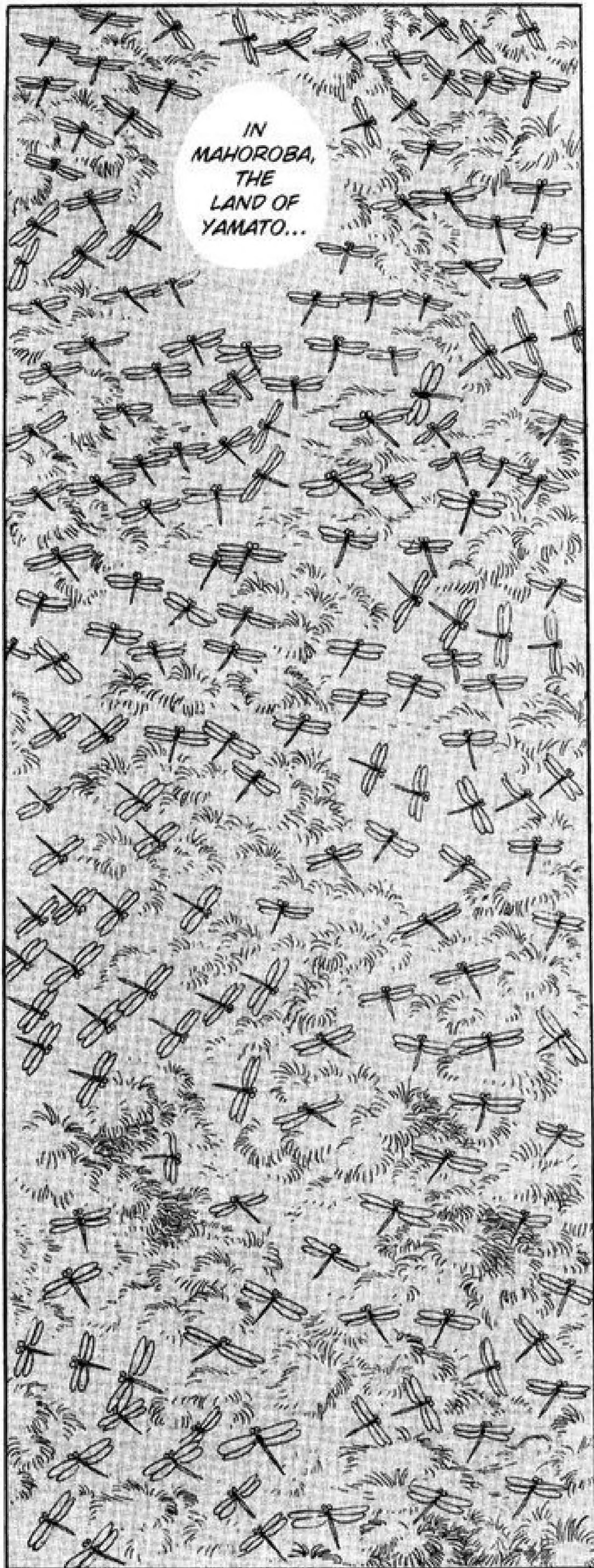
BY OSAMU TEZUKA

IN ASUKA, OF NARA PREFECTURE,
JAPAN, LIES THE STONE TOMB
OF A HALF COMPLETED BURIAL
MOUND. WHY WAS IT LEFT
EXPOSED AND UNFINISHED?
PERHAPS THE KING WHO WAS
BURIED HERE MET WITH SOME
UNFORESEEN DIFFICULTIES...
PERHAPS IT HAPPENED LIKE THIS...

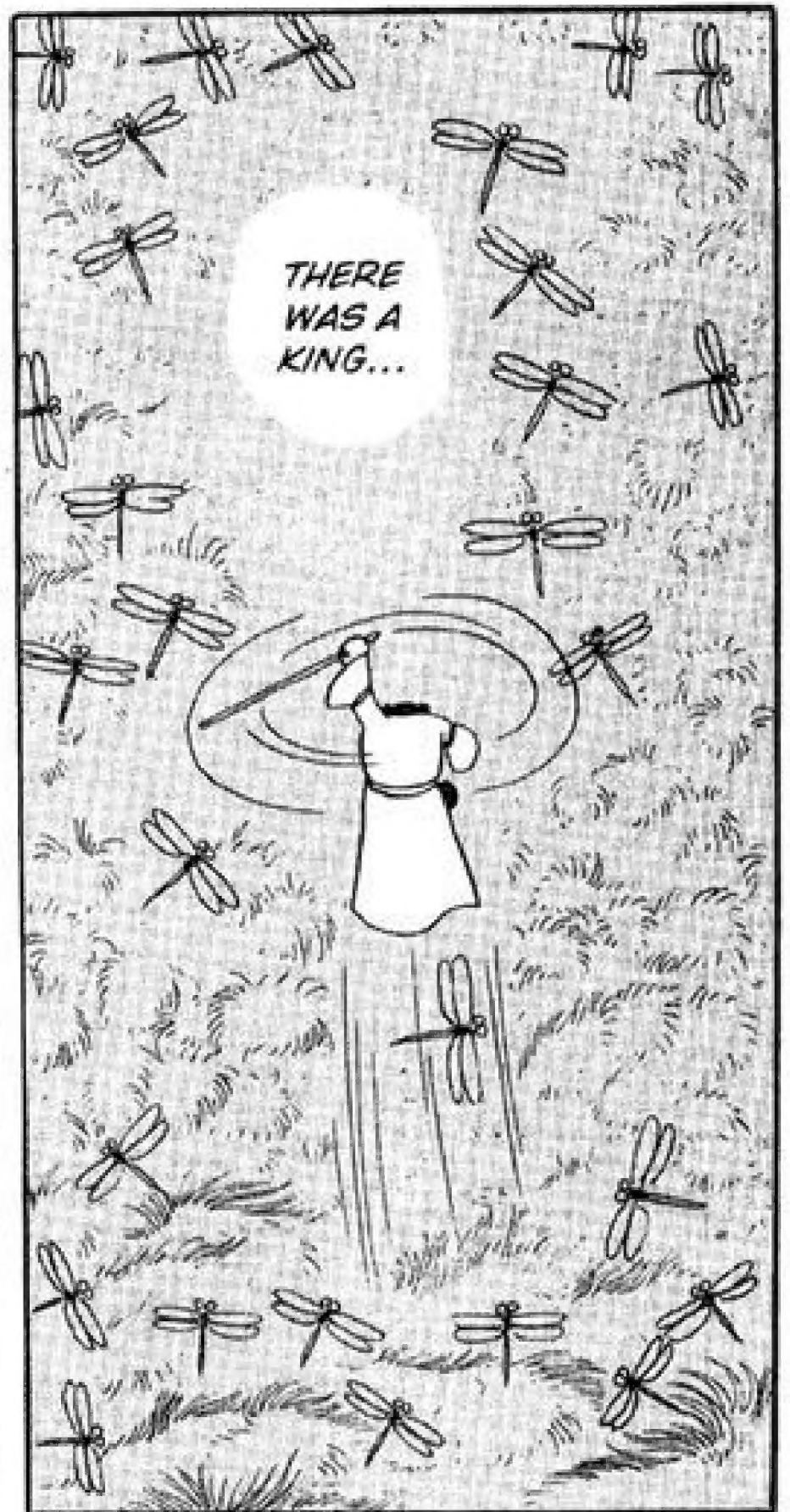


ONCE
UPON
A TIME,
AND 365
TIMES
THAT...





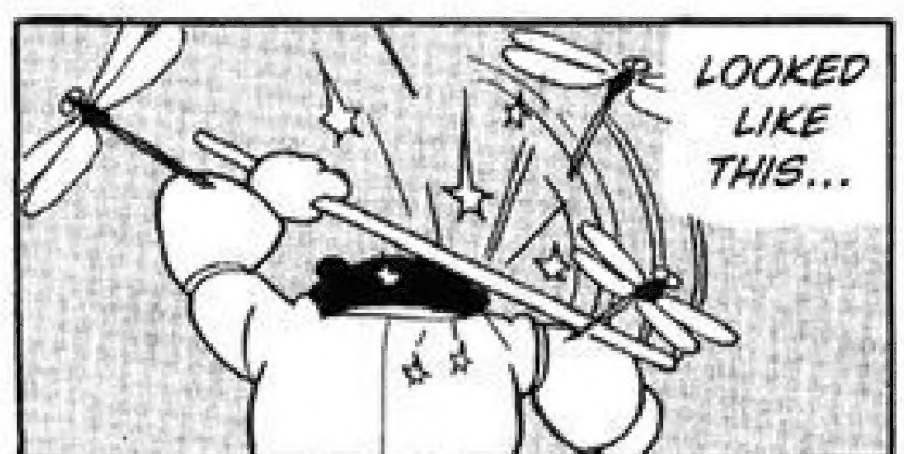
IN
MAHOROBA,
THE
LAND OF
YAMATO...



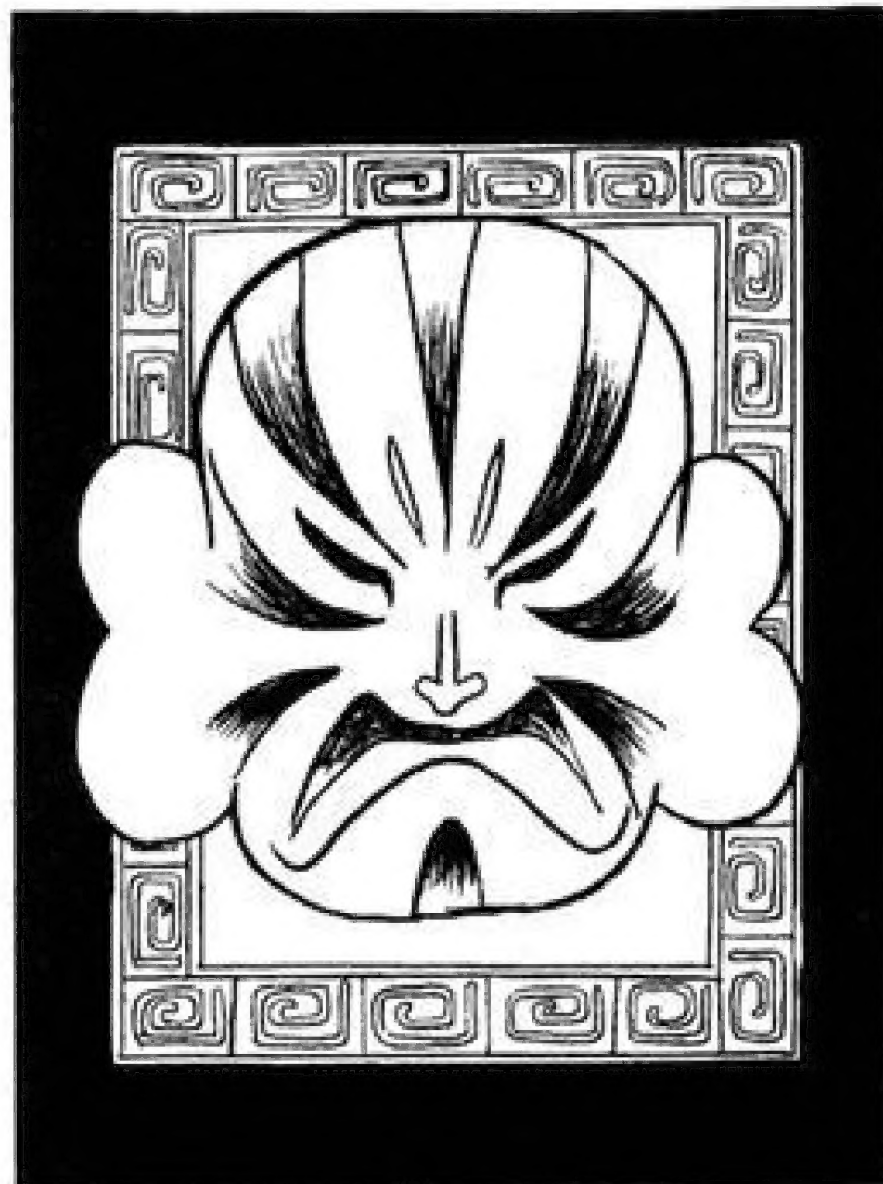
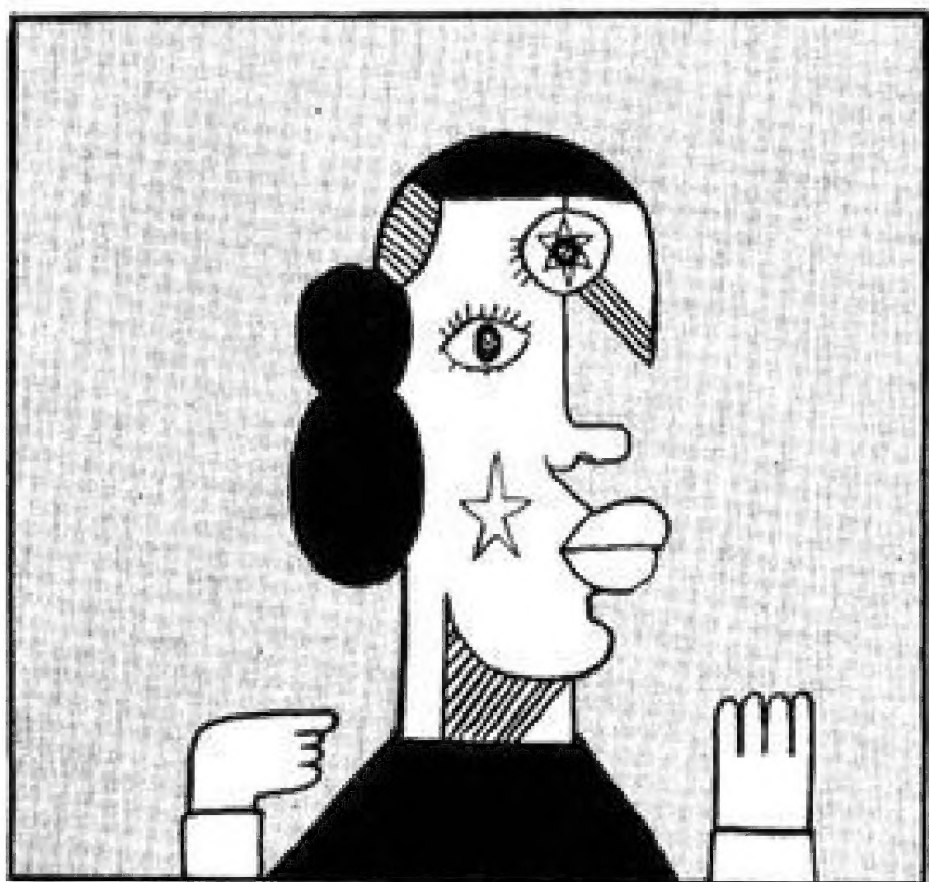
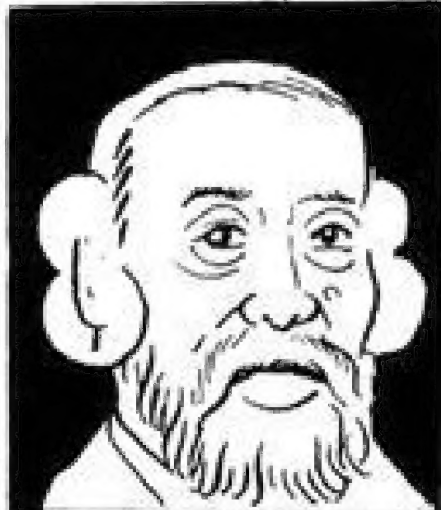
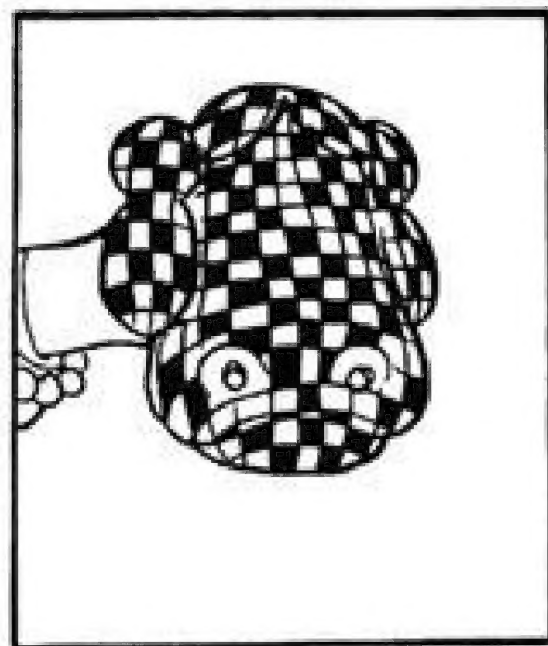
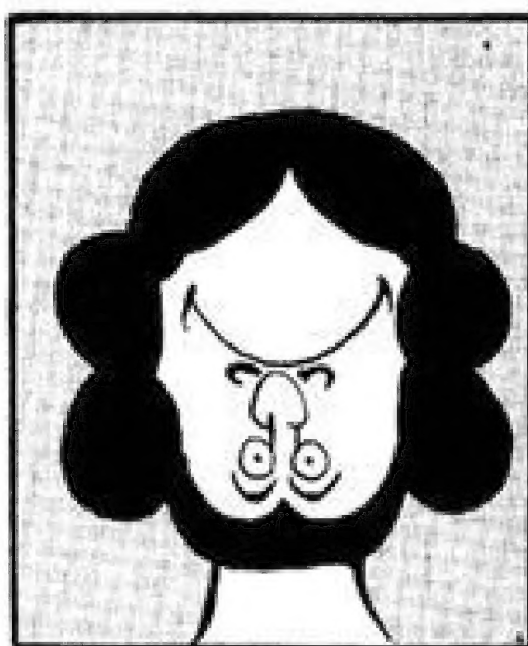
THERE
WAS A
KING...

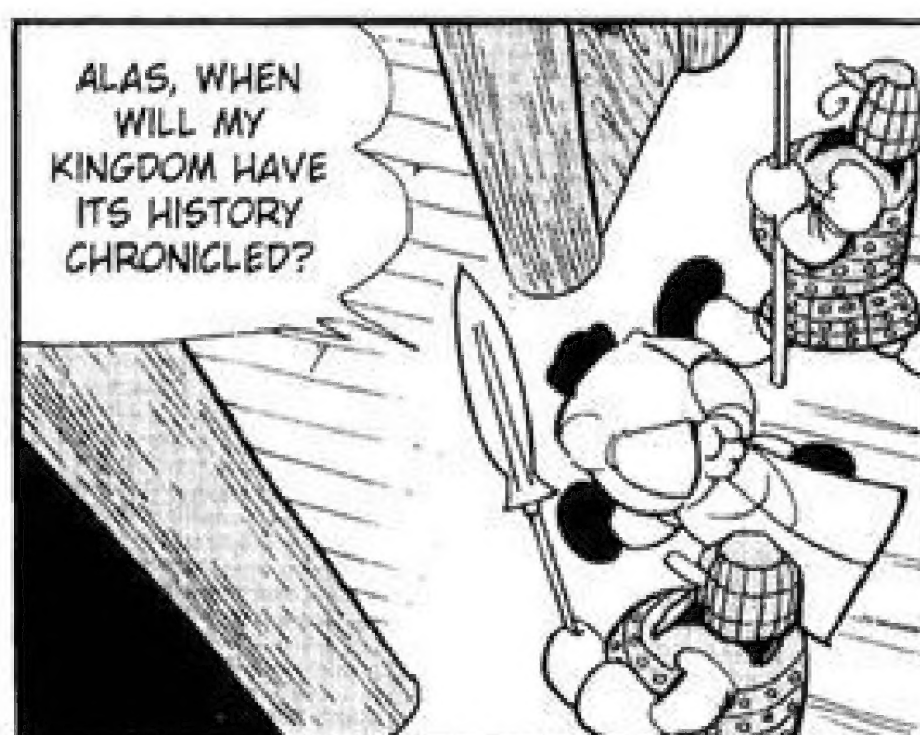
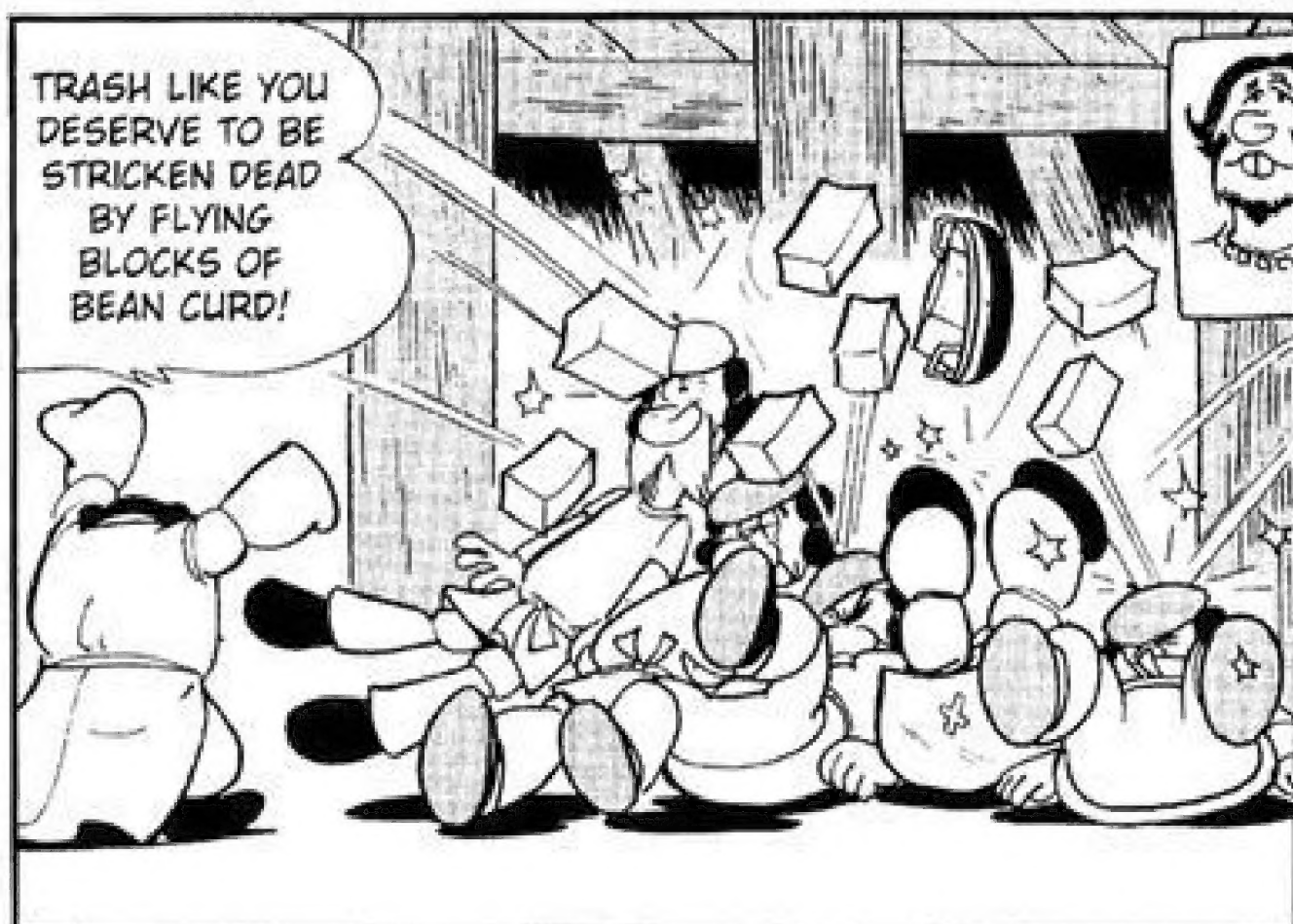
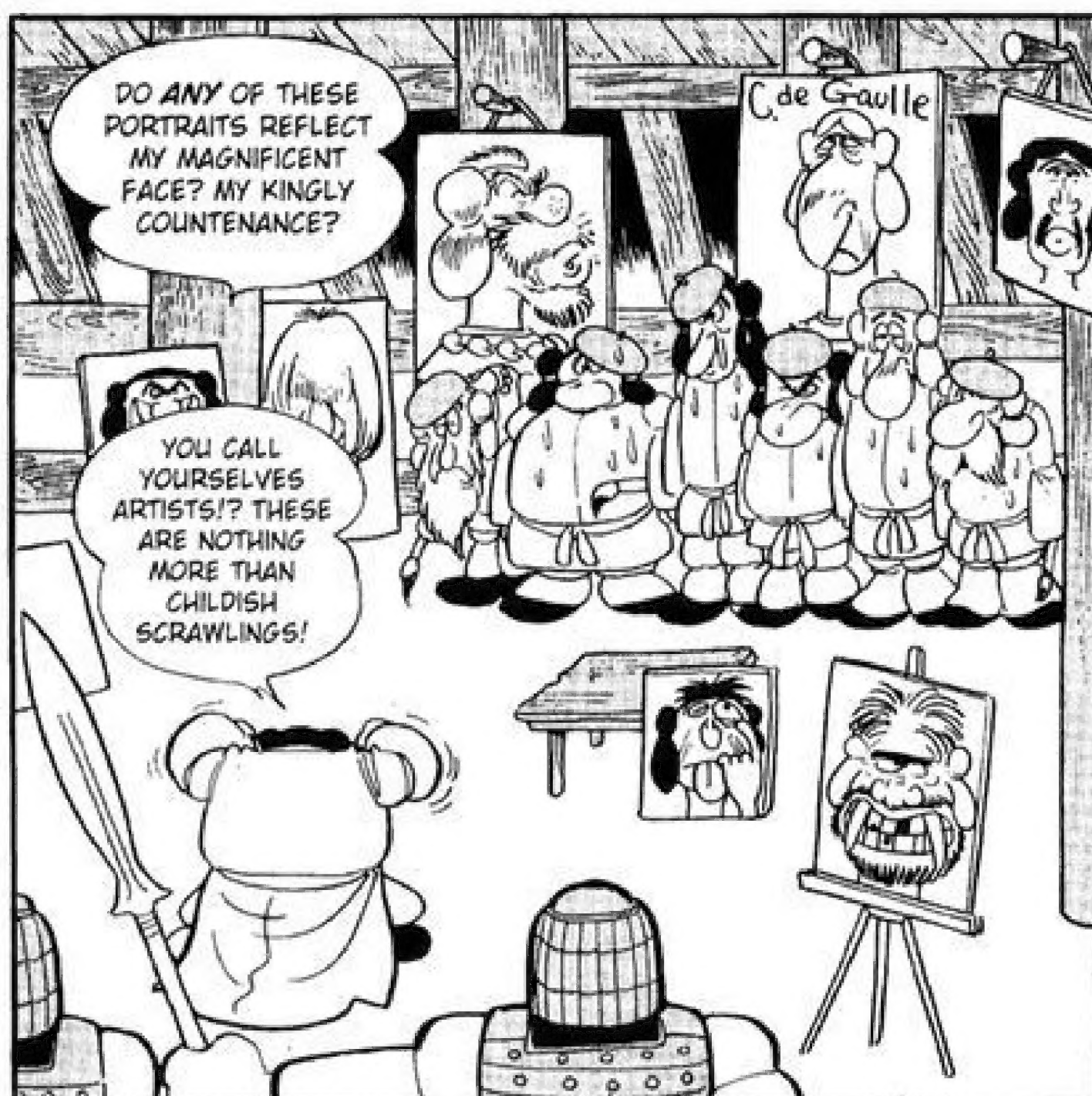
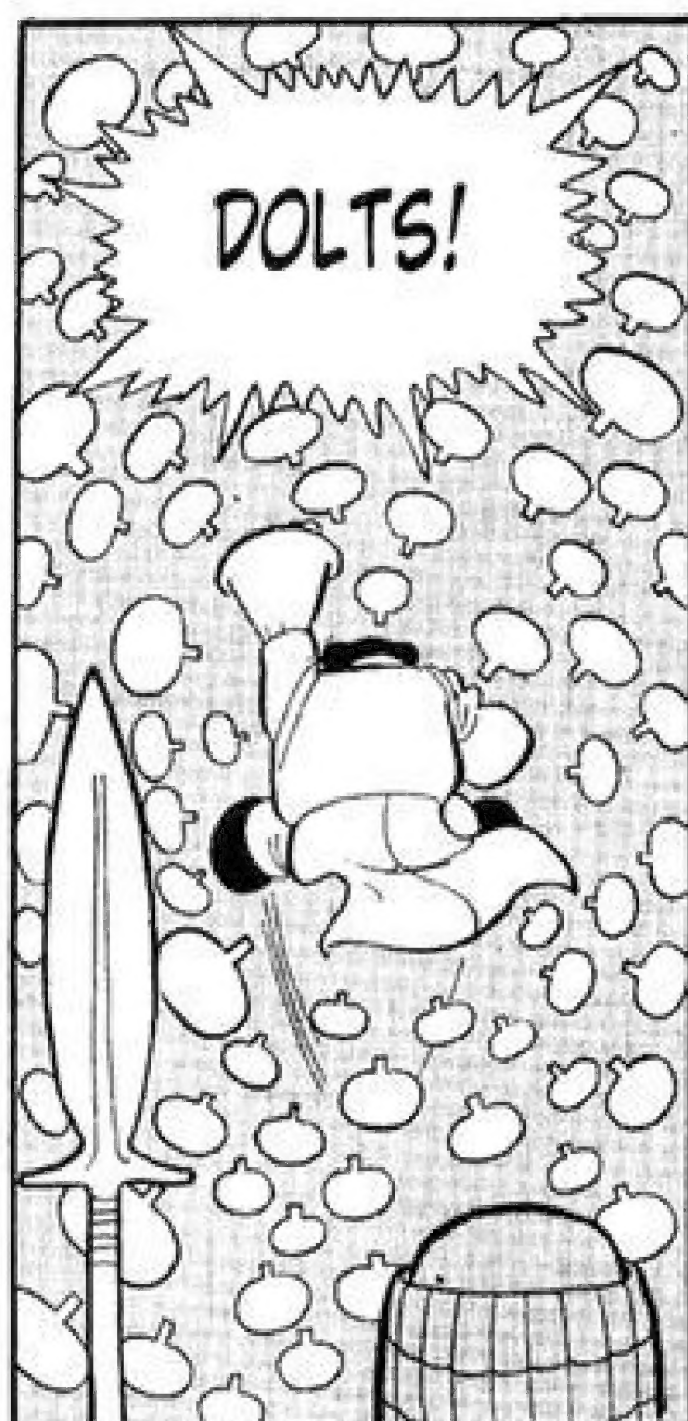


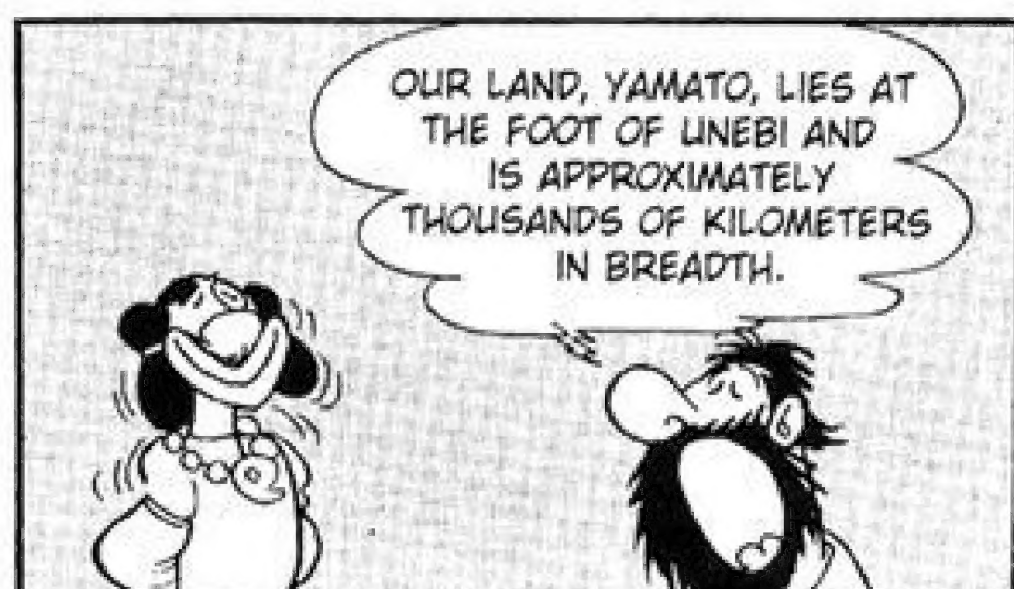
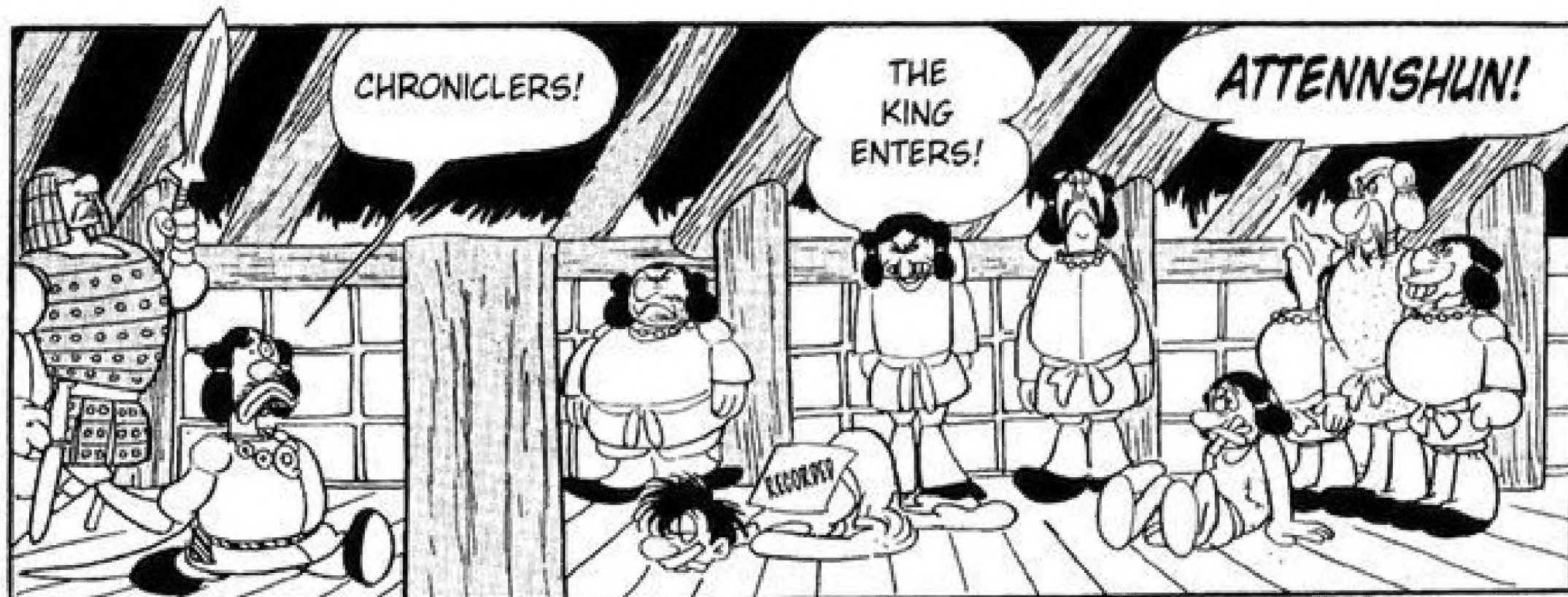
AND THE
KING'S
FACE...

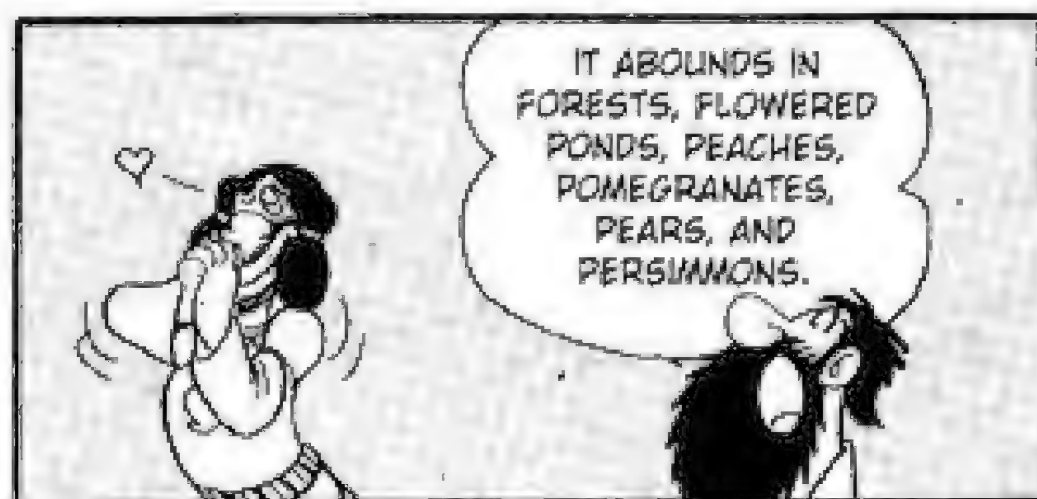


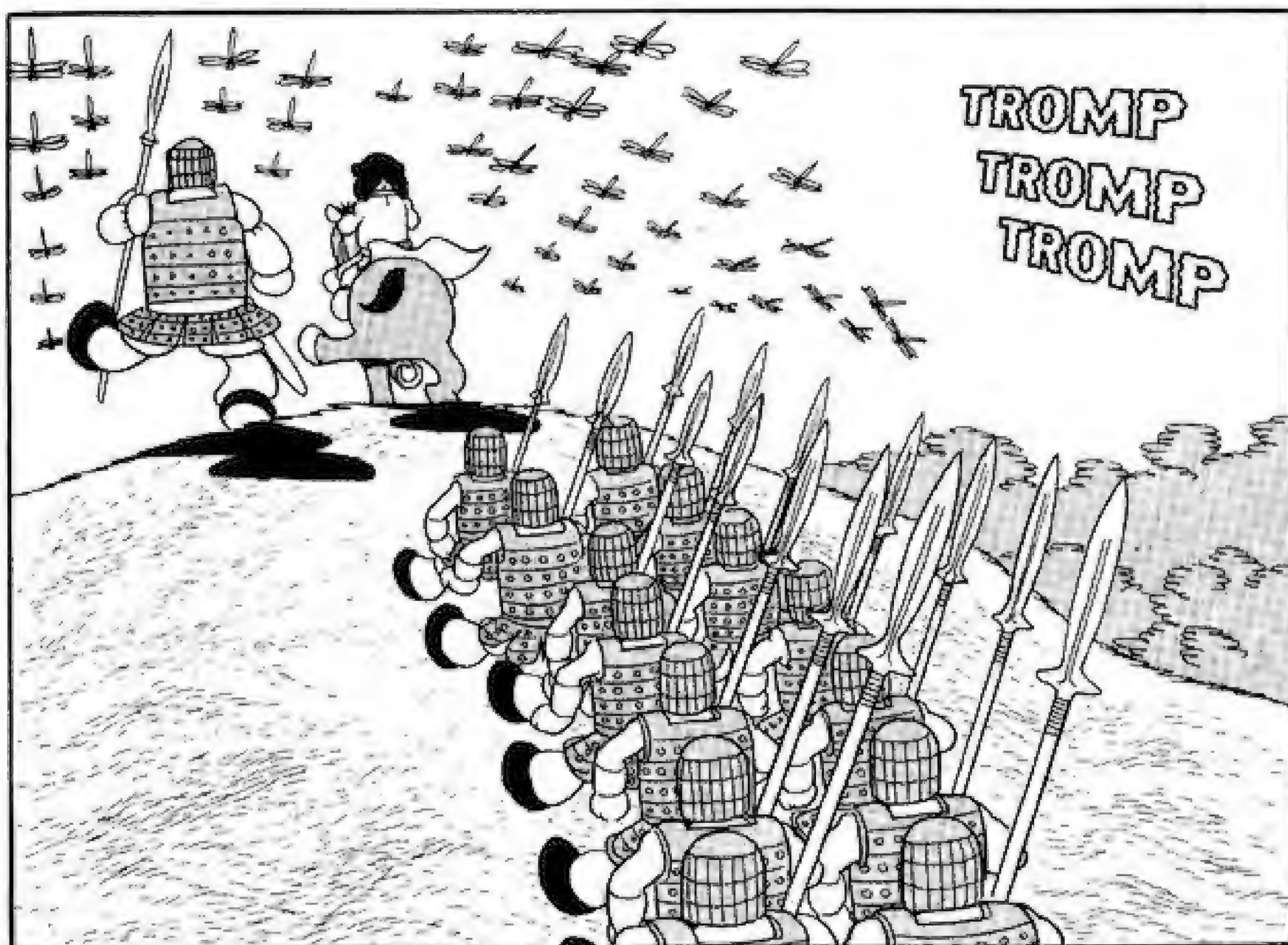
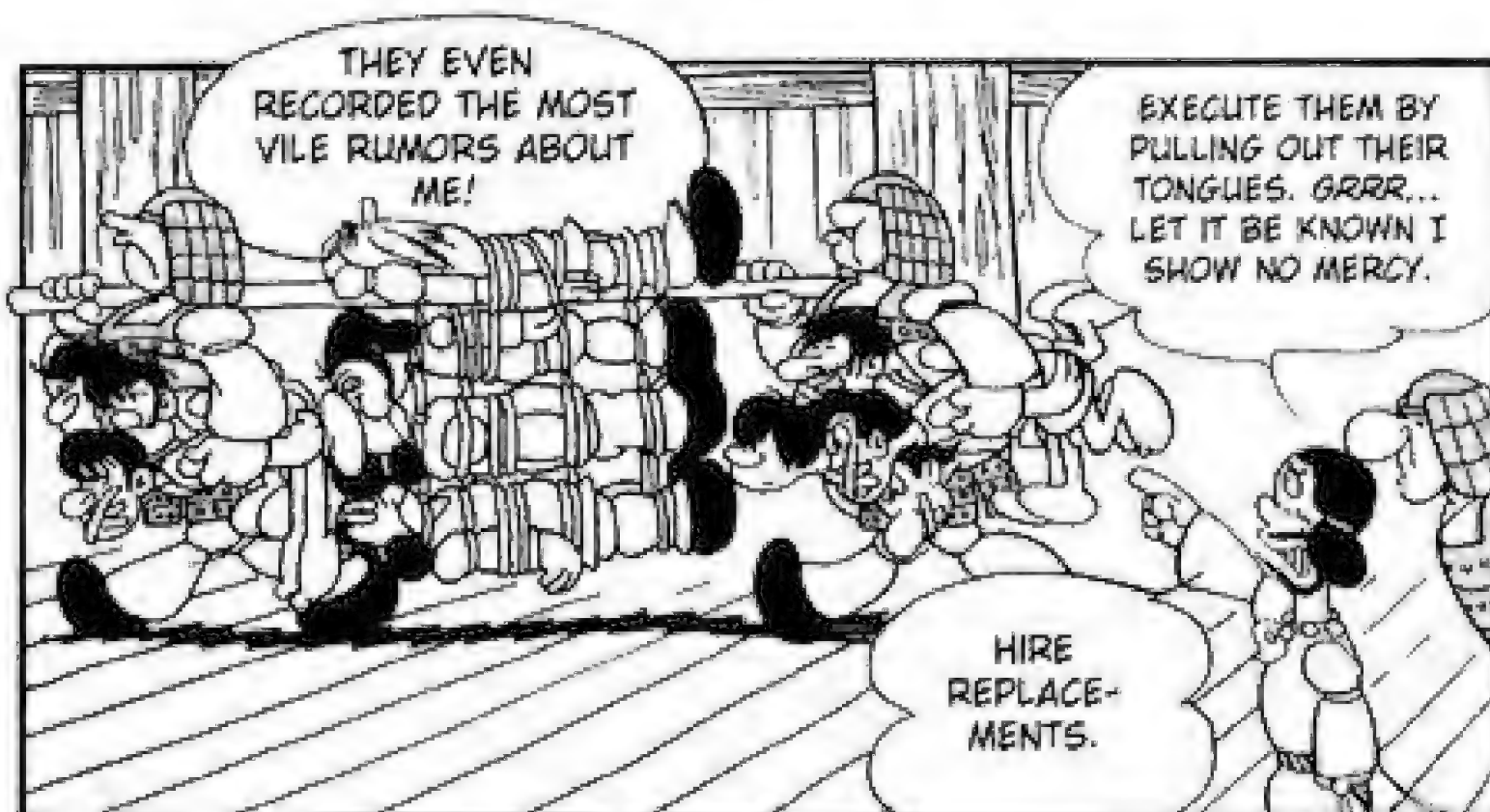
LOOKED
LIKE
THIS...

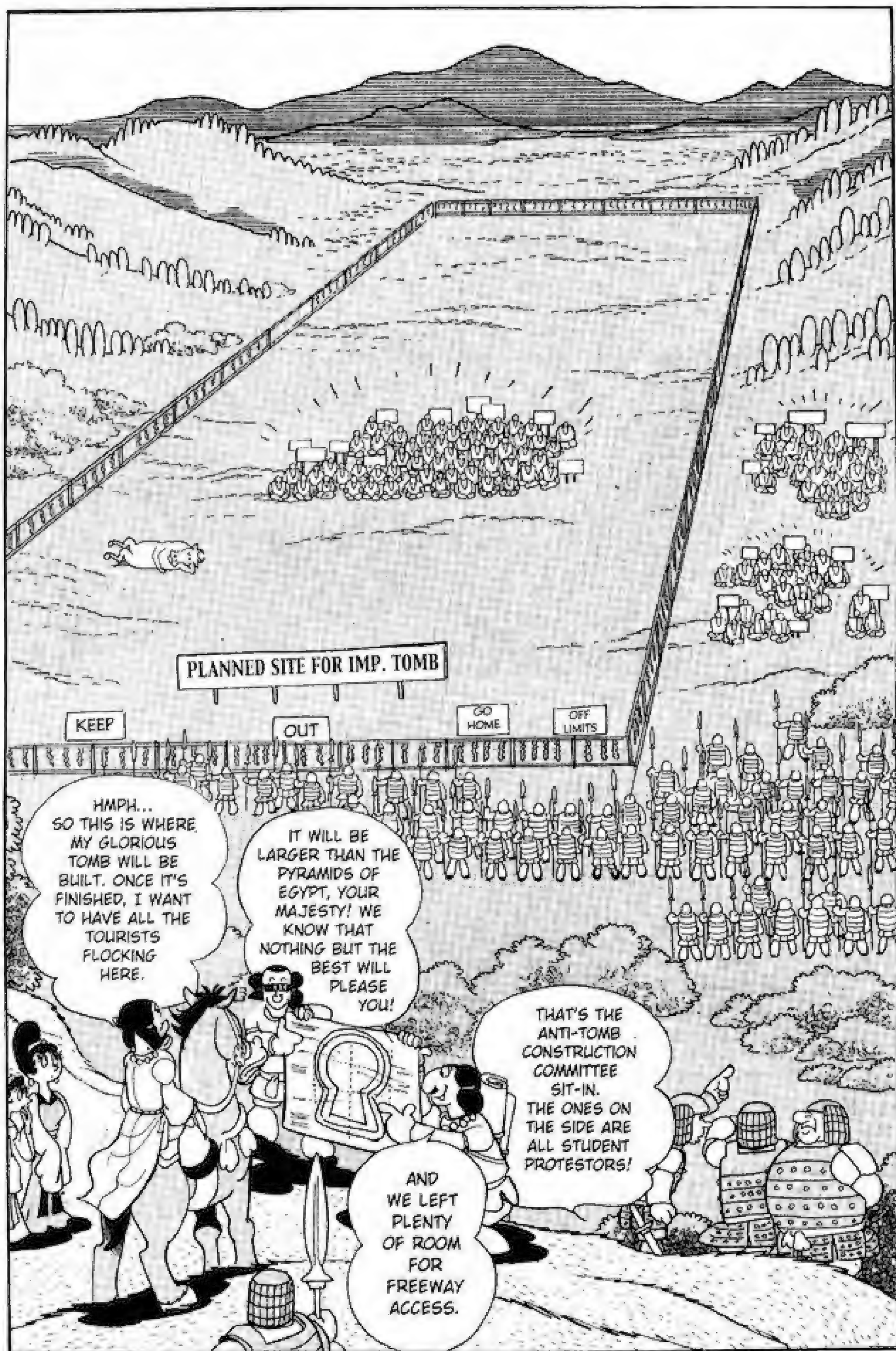










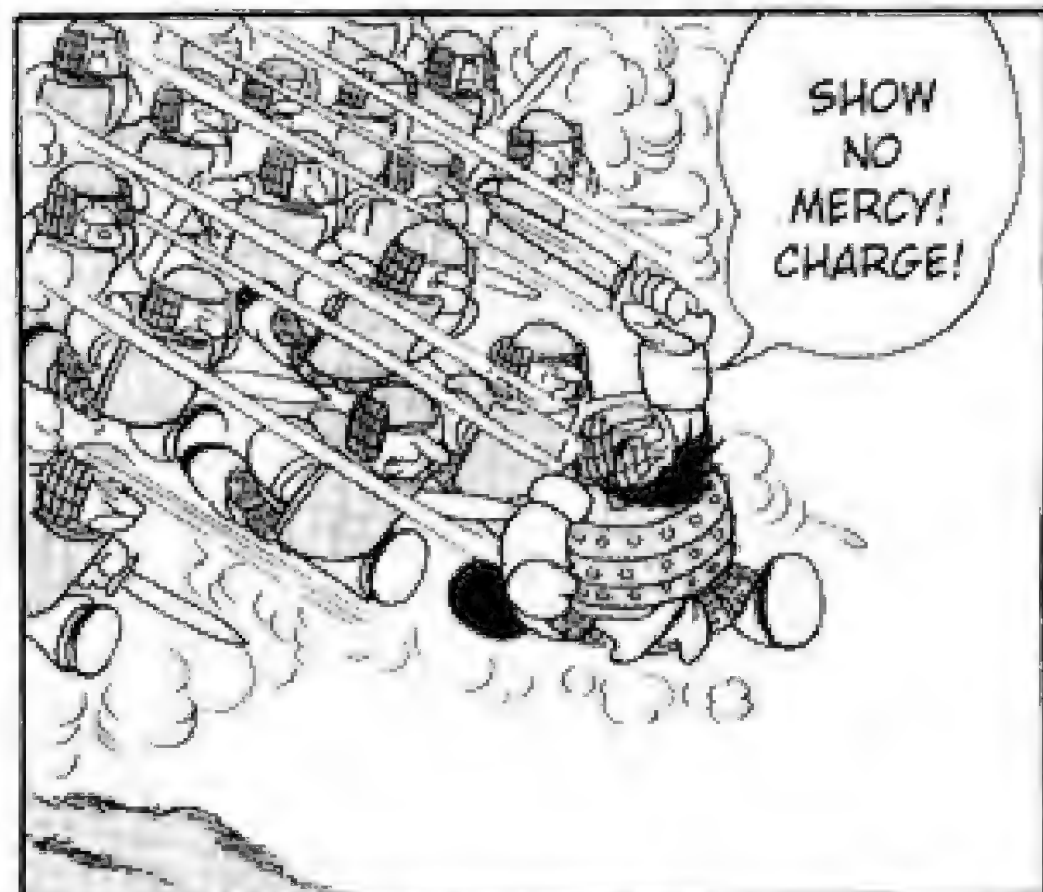
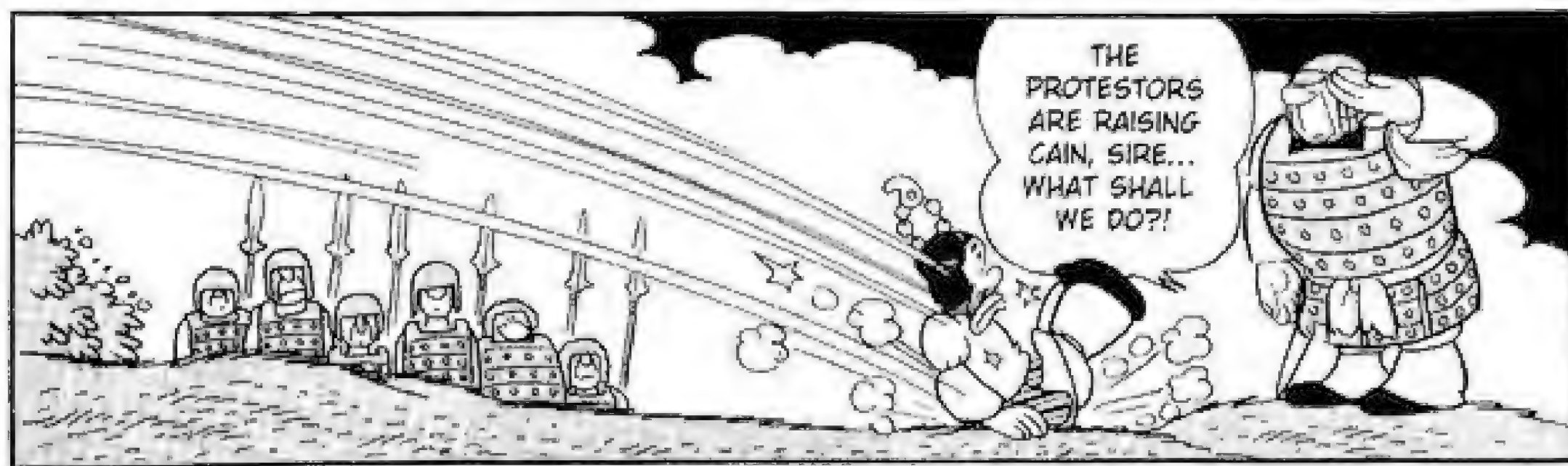
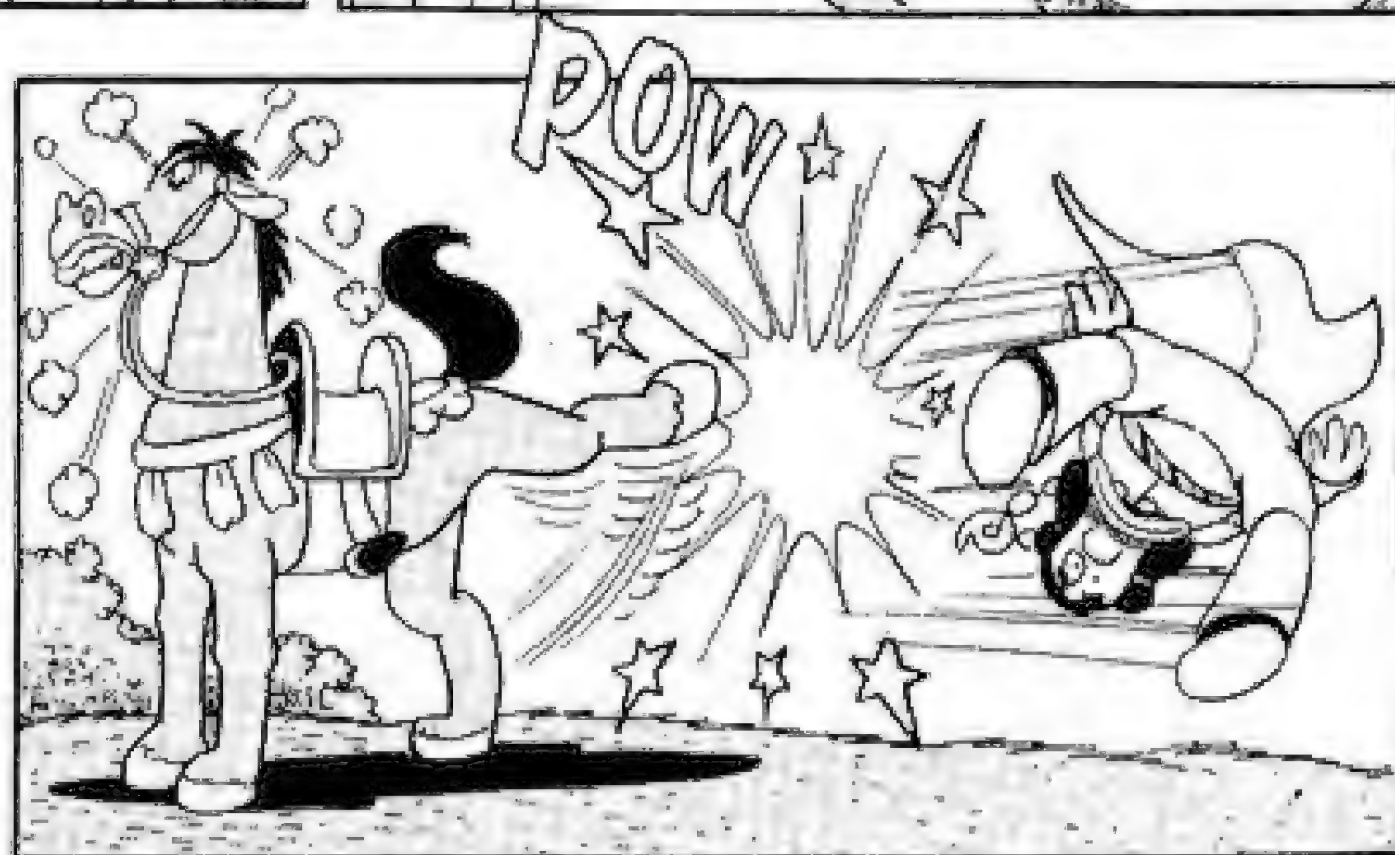


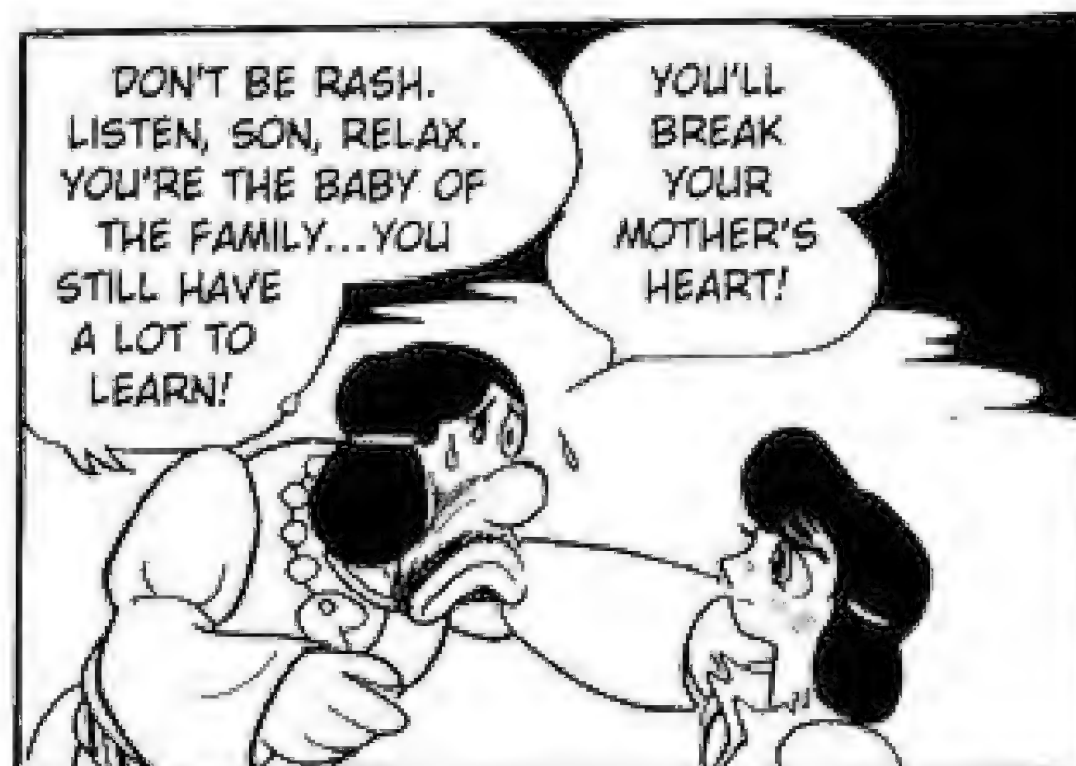
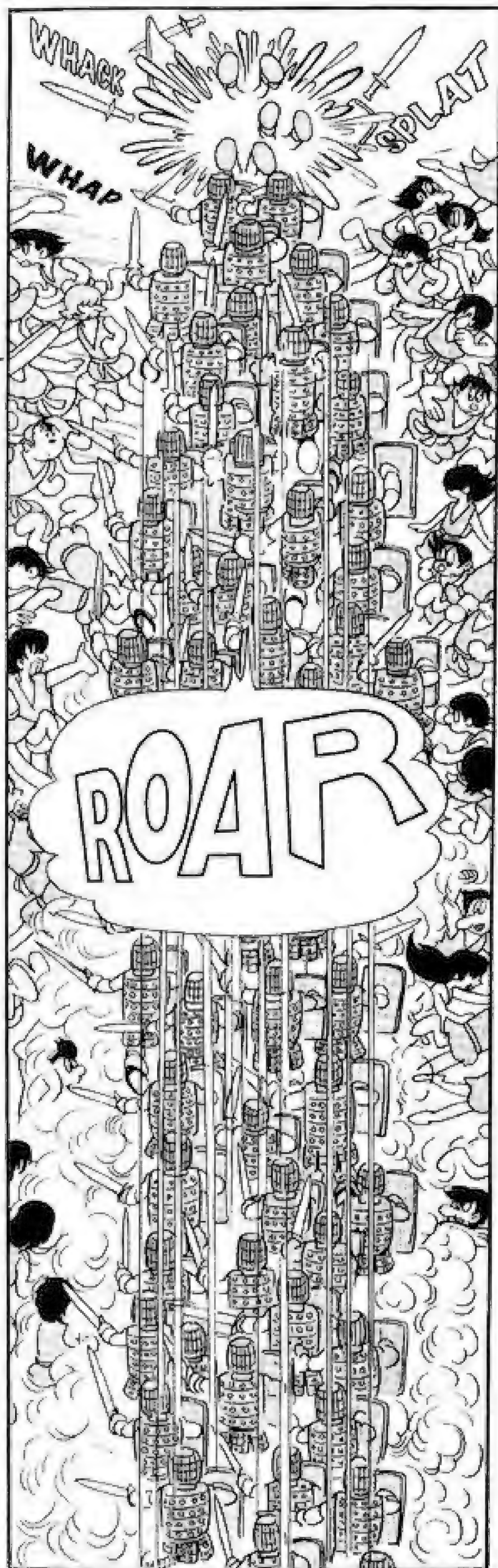
HMPH...
SO THIS IS WHERE
MY GLORIOUS
TOMB WILL BE
BUILT. ONCE IT'S
FINISHED, I WANT
TO HAVE ALL THE
TOURISTS
FLOCKING
HERE.

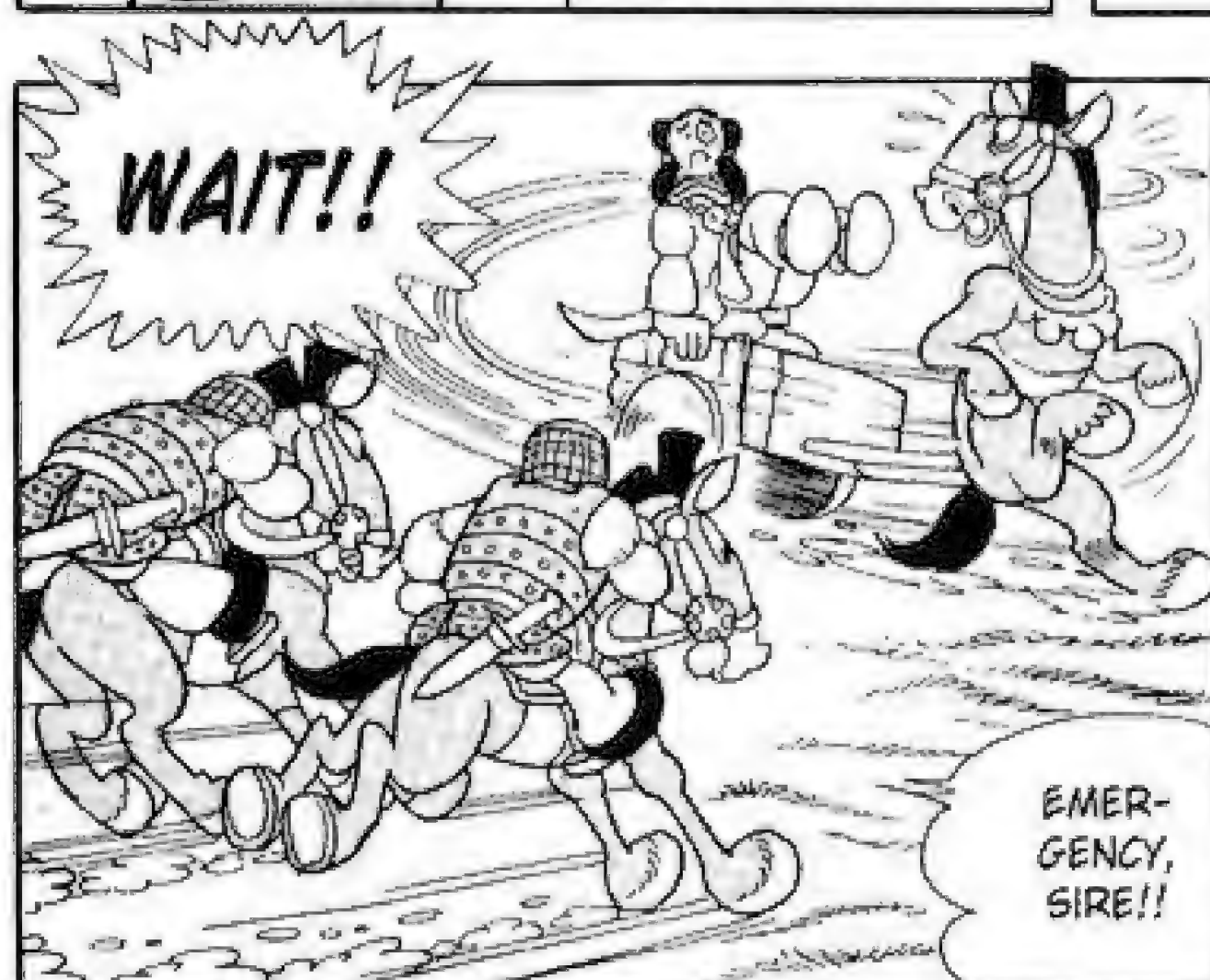
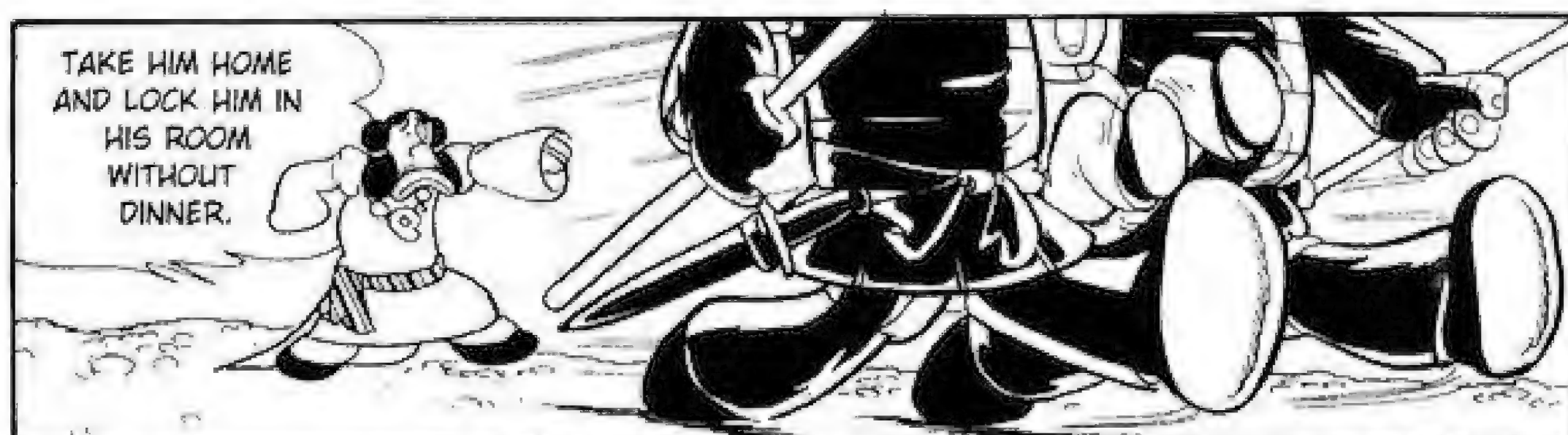
IT WILL BE
LARGER THAN THE
PYRAMIDS OF
EGYPT, YOUR
MAJESTY! WE
KNOW THAT
NOTHING BUT THE
BEST WILL
PLEASE
YOU!

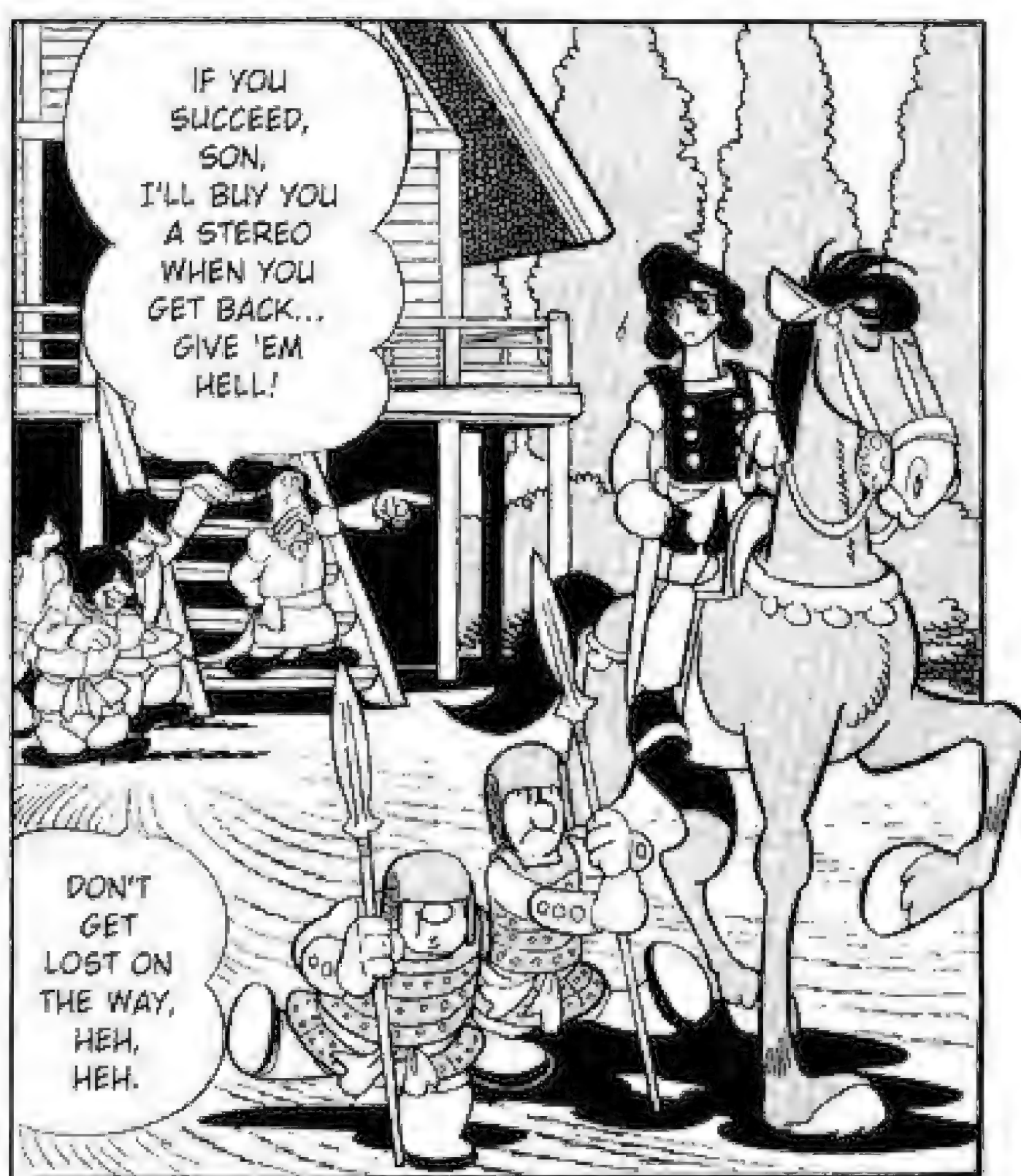
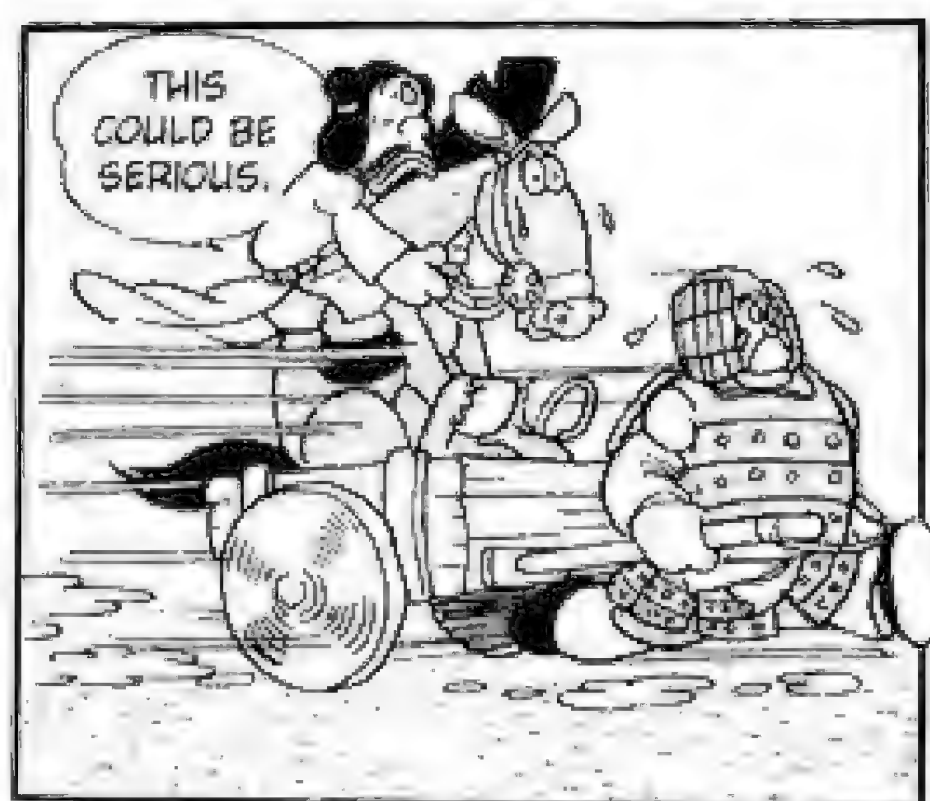
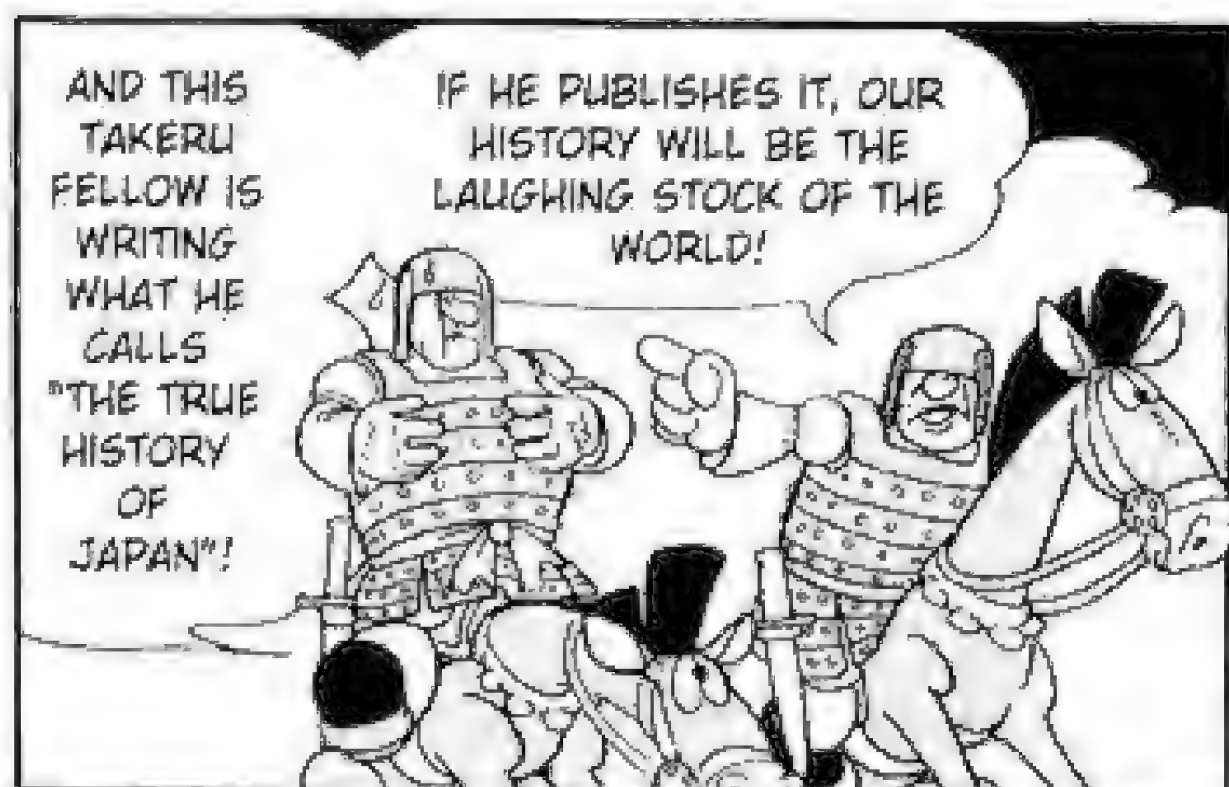
THAT'S THE
ANTI-TOMB
CONSTRUCTION
COMMITTEE
SIT-IN.
THE ONES ON
THE SIDE ARE
ALL STUDENT
PROTESTORS!

AND
WE LEFT
PLENTY
OF ROOM
FOR
FREEWAY
ACCESS.

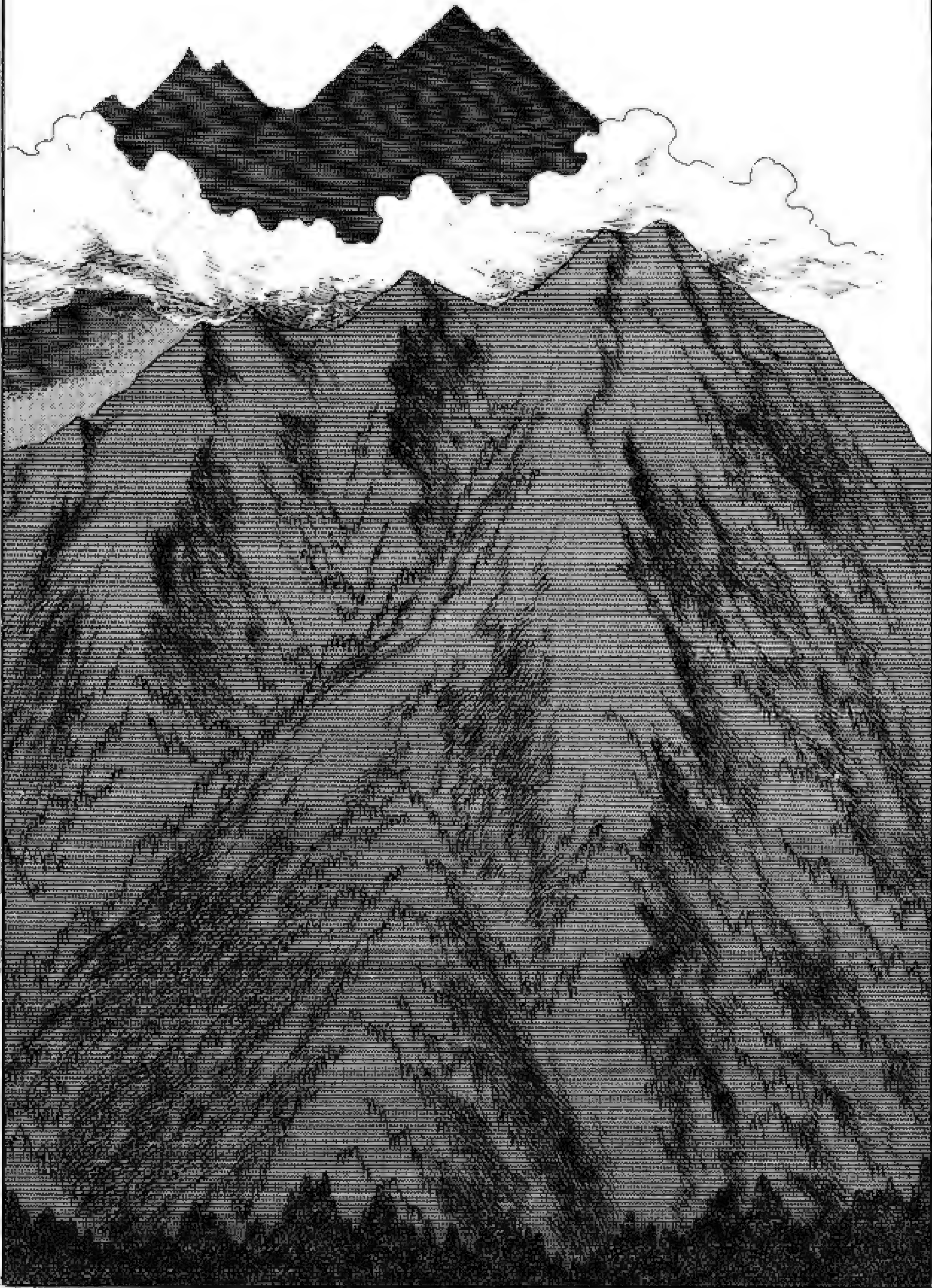


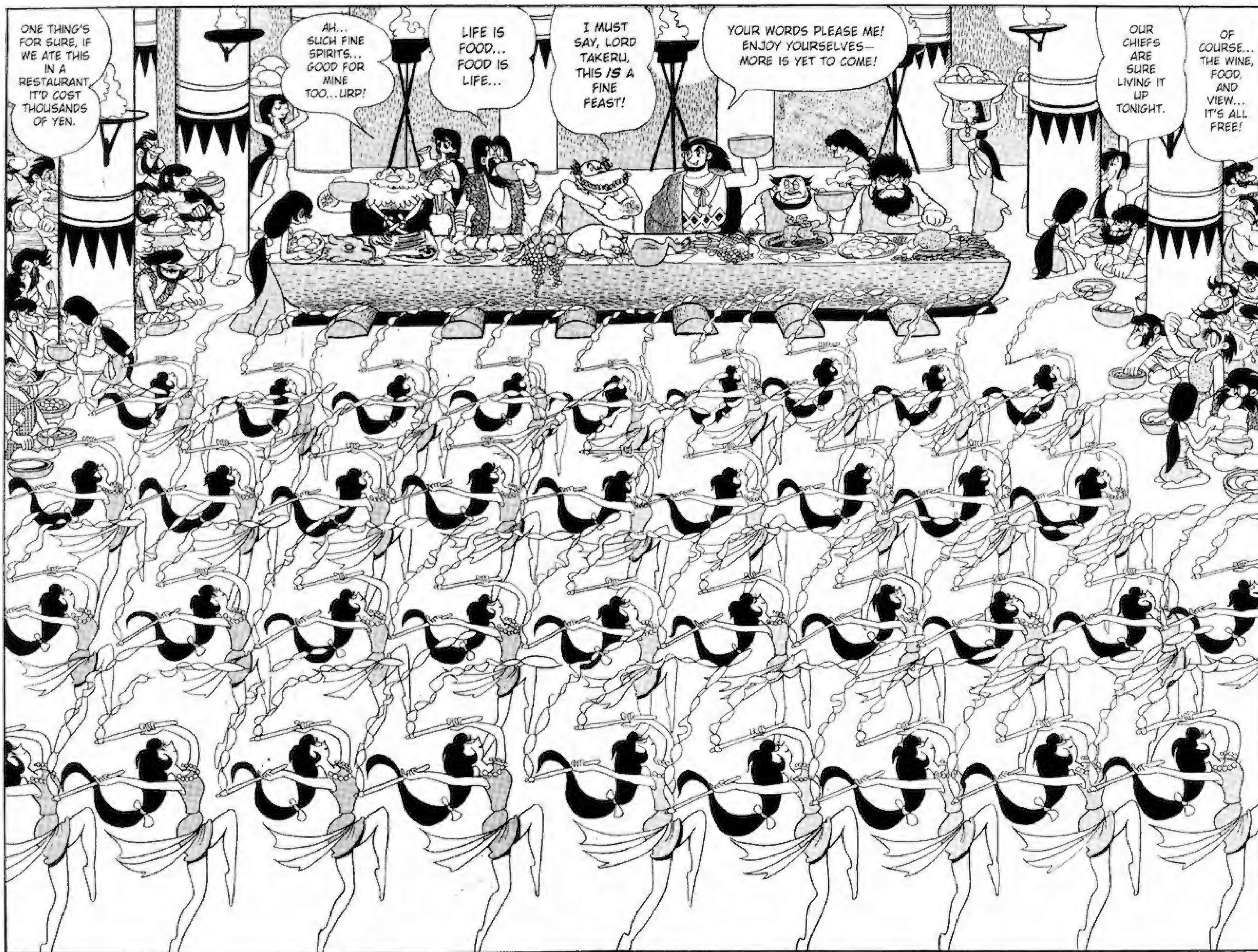






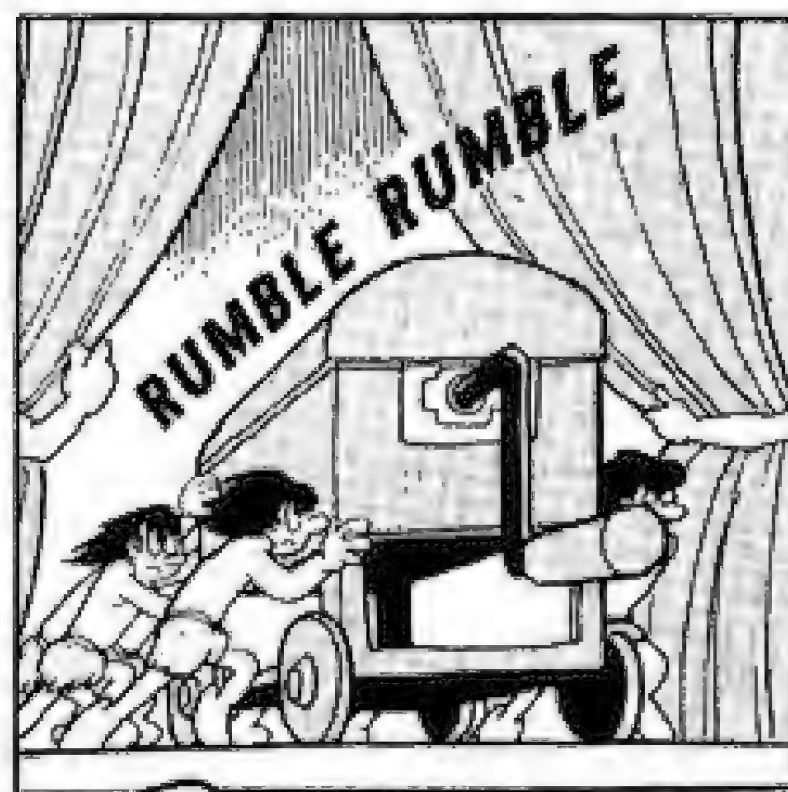
AND FAR AWAY, IN THE LAND OF FIRE...



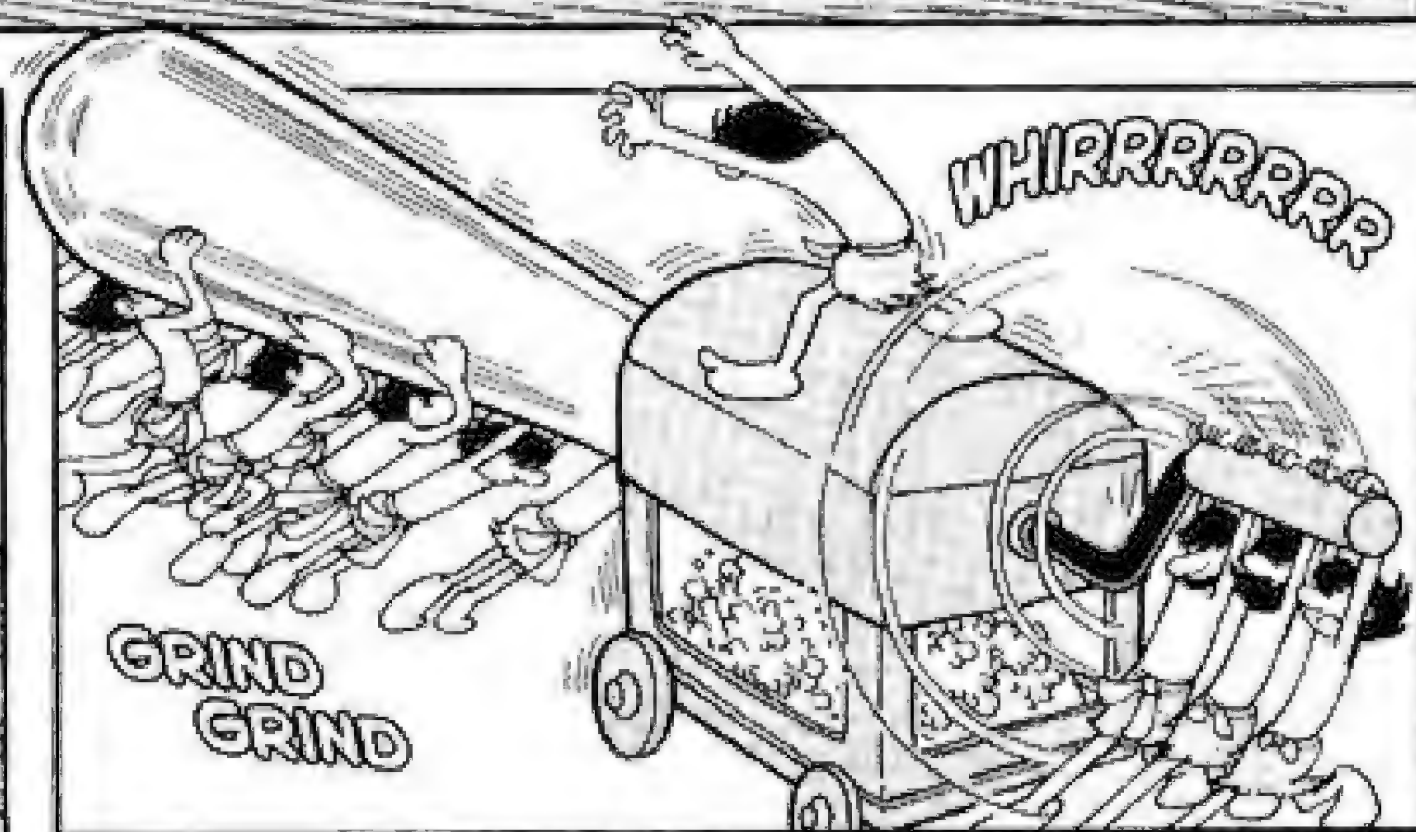


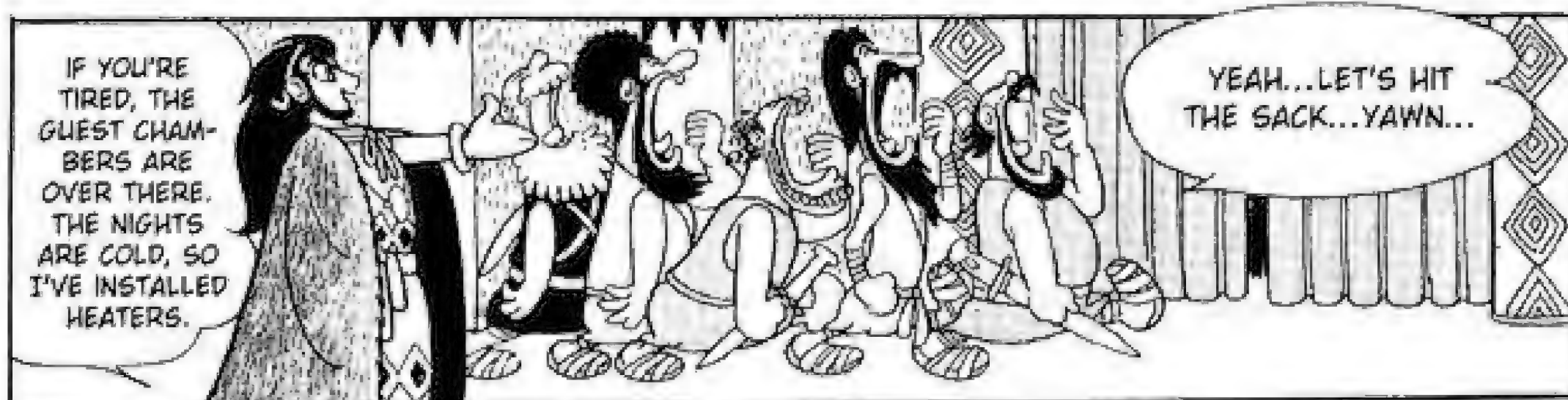


NO, I'M STUFFED! BUT MAYBE I COULD HANDLE SOMETHING A LITTLE LIGHTER.



I'VE HAD THEM BRING THE LARGEST ICICLE FROM THE CAVERNS BELOW FIRE MOUNTAIN.





IF YOU'RE
TIRED, THE
GUEST CHAM-
BERS ARE
OVER THERE.
THE NIGHTS
ARE COLD, SO
I'VE INSTALLED
HEATERS.

YEAH...LET'S HIT
THE SACK...YAWN...

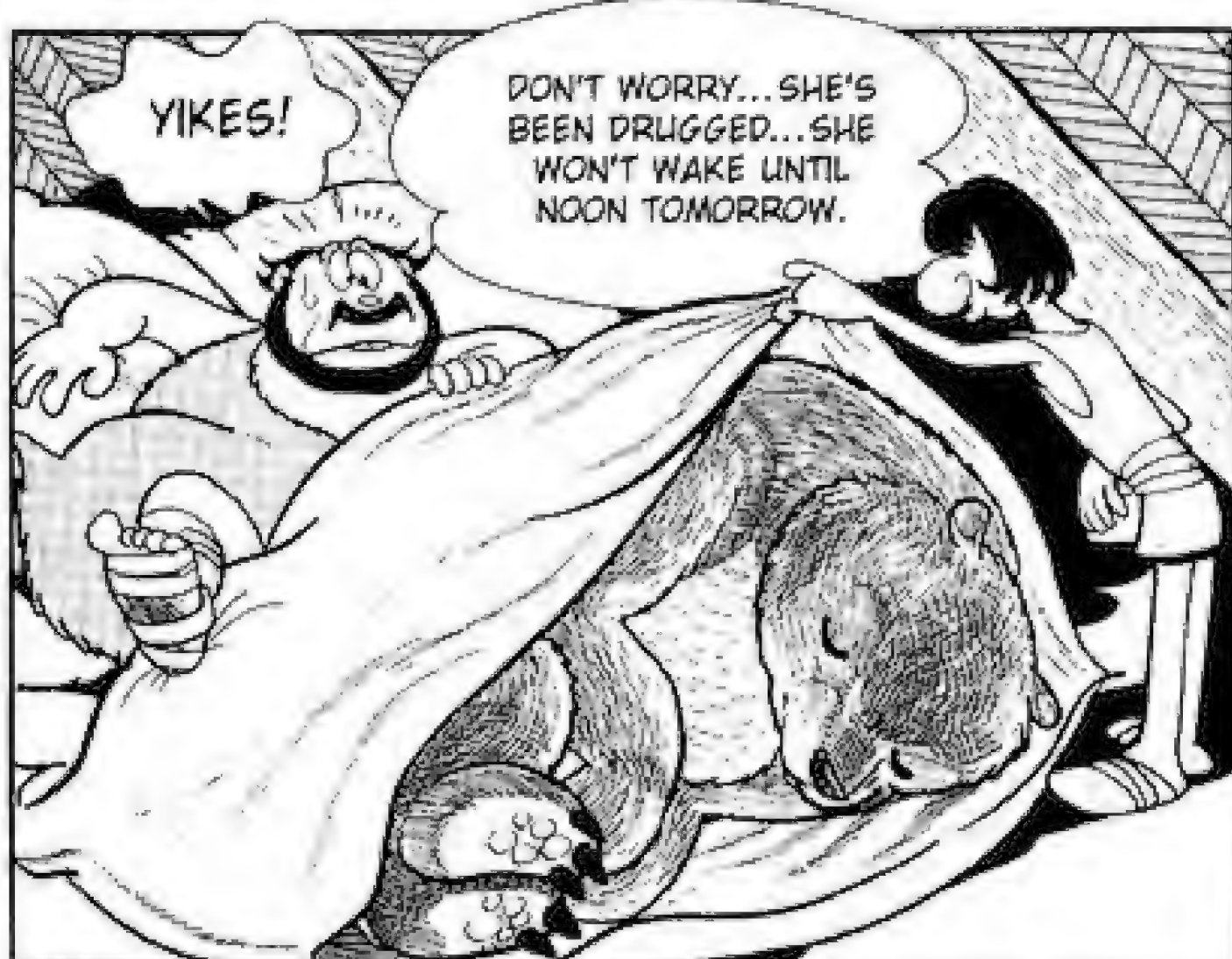


AH! THIS
FEELS
MAGNIFICENT!
IT'S AS WARM
AS TOAST!



WHA?

THE...THE BED'S
BREATHING!



YIKES!

DON'T WORRY...SHE'S
BEEN DRUGGED...SHE
WON'T WAKE UNTIL
NOON TOMORROW.



YOUR
LORDSHIP!

WHAT IS
IT, NAGA-
SHIMA?



YOUR PARTY
TONIGHT
COST
33,465,789
YEN!

IS THAT
SO?

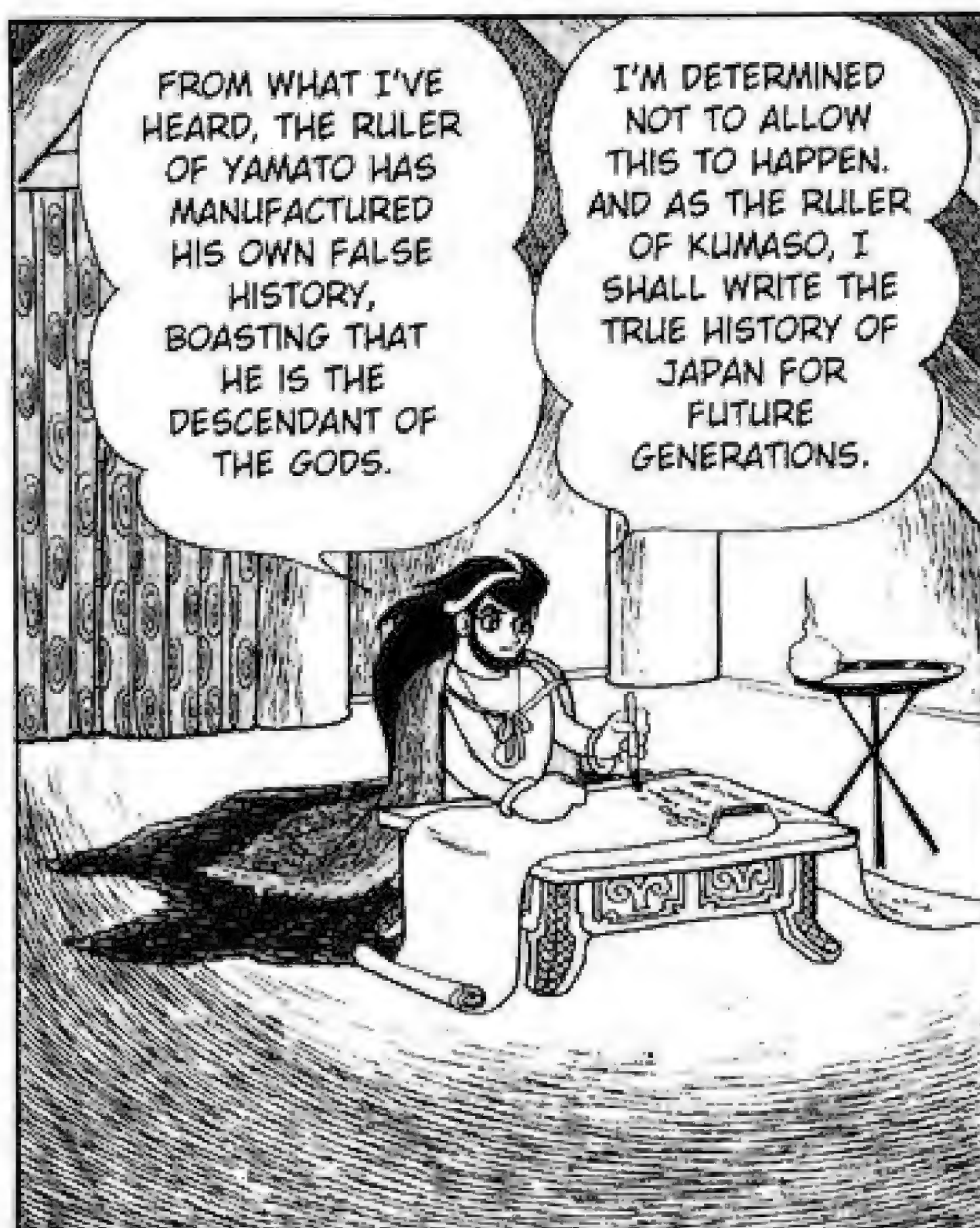
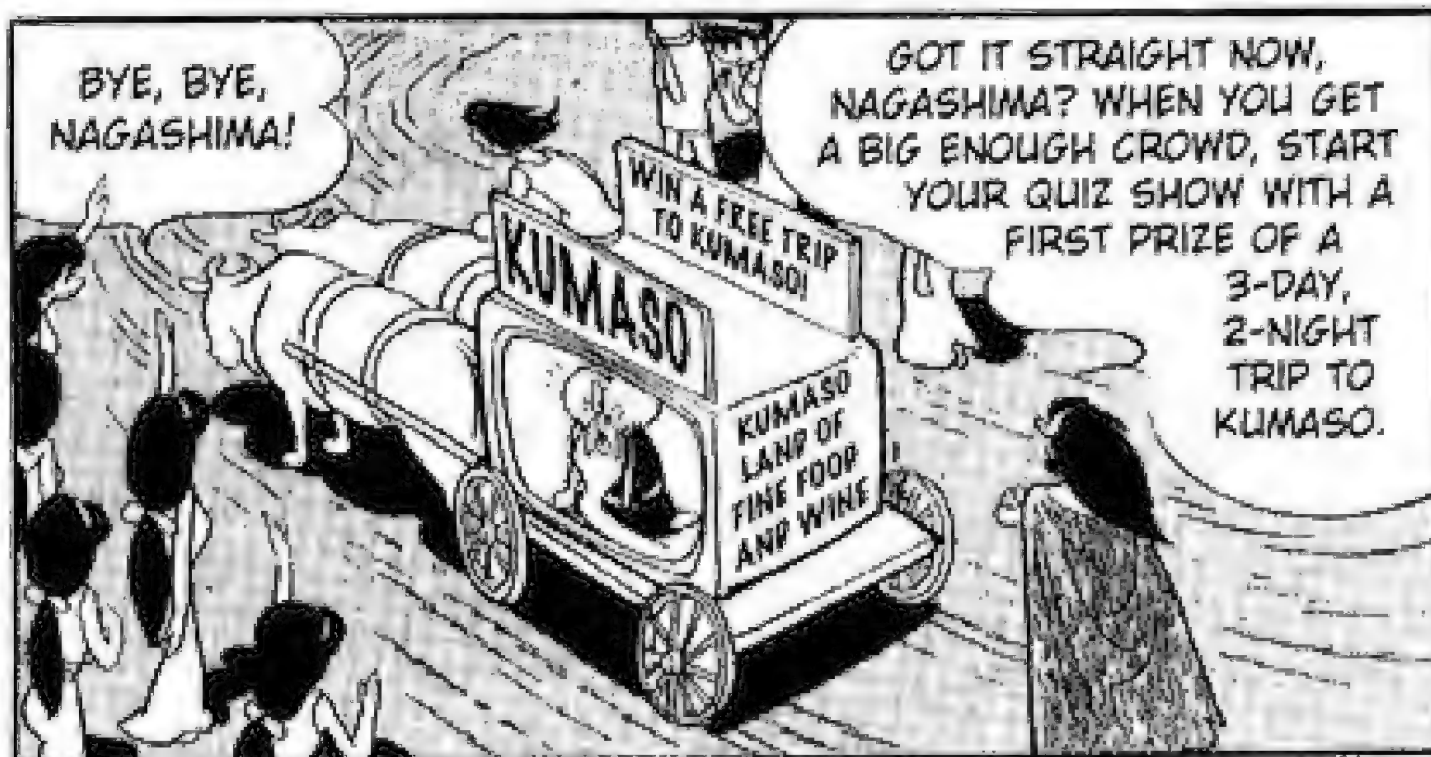
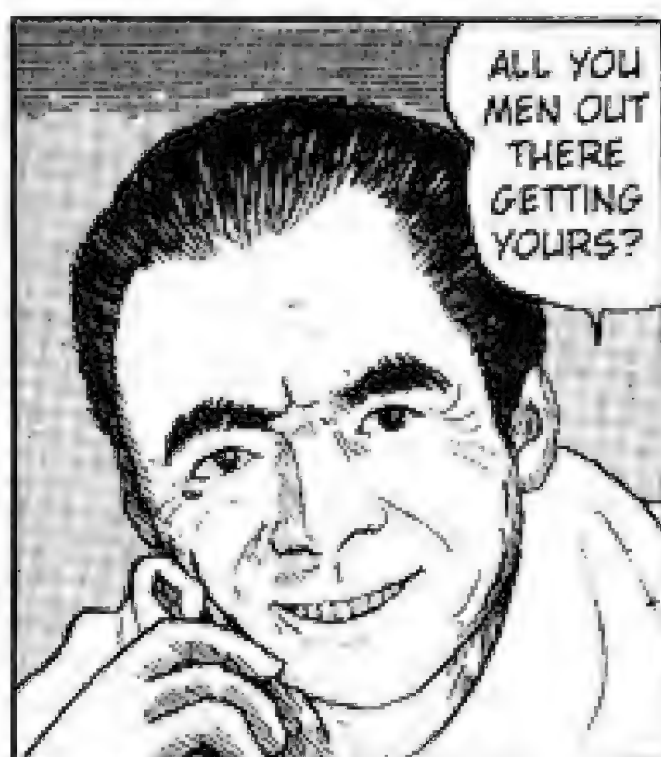


"IZZATSO"?!
IS THAT
ALL YOU
CAN SAY?!

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT
TO GAIN FROM
THROWING AWAY ALL
THIS MONEY ON A
BUNCH OF BARBARIAN
CHIEFTAINS!?

HAVEN'T
YOU
HEARD OF
MODERA-
TION?!







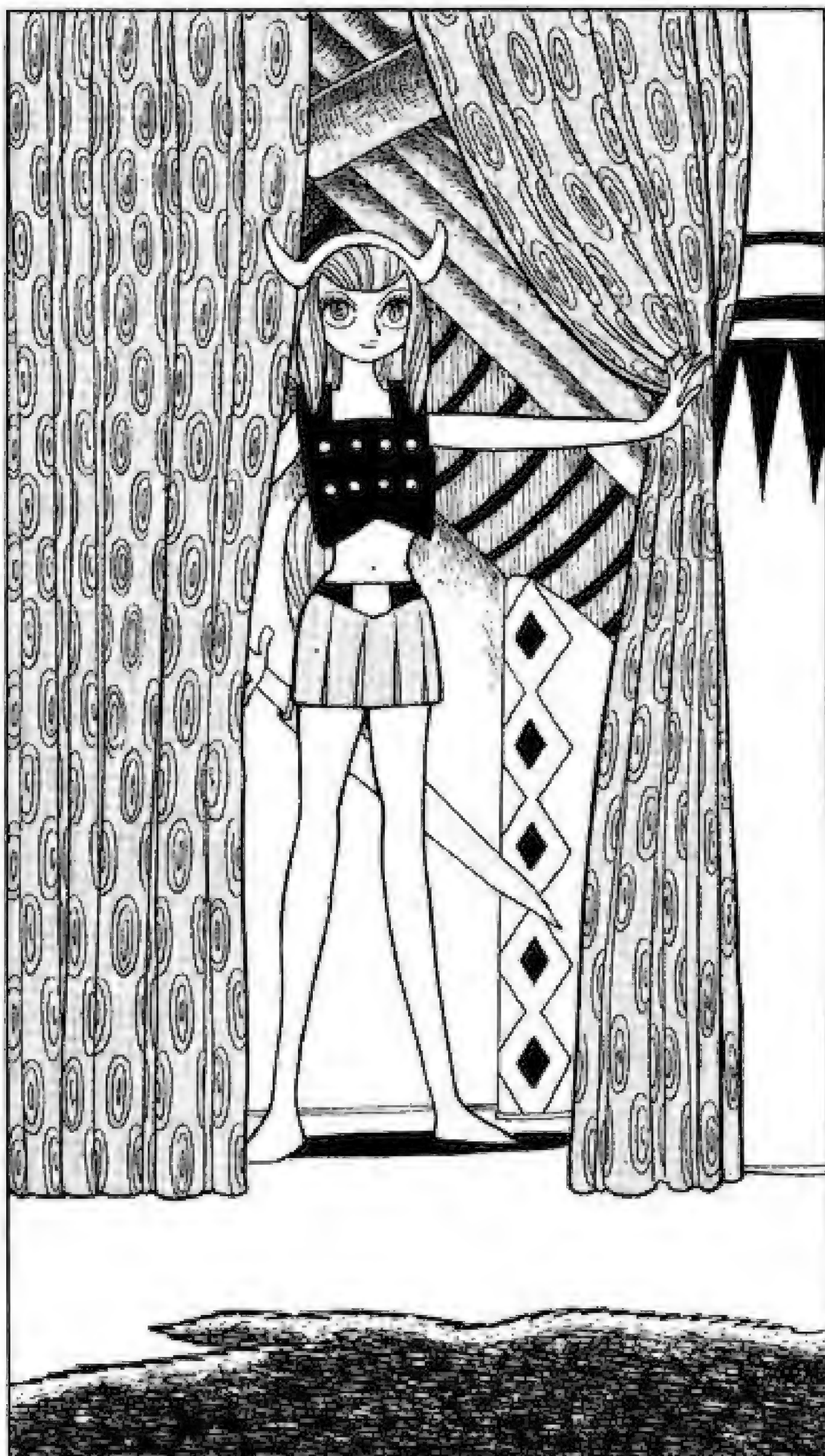
TAKERU...



WHO'S THERE?!



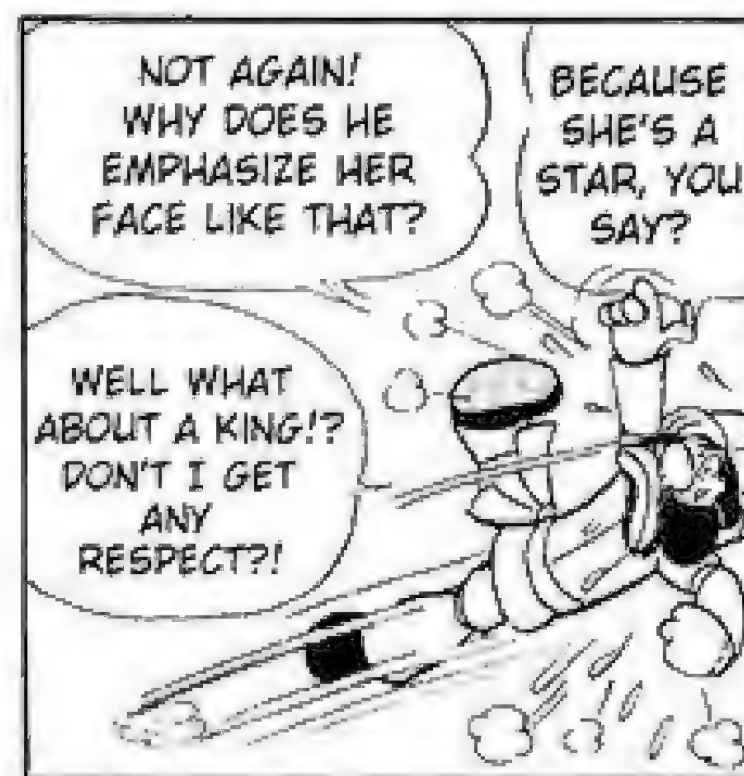
IT'S ME,
KAJIKI,
YOUR
SISTER...



HOW COME
THE ARTIST
USES SO
MUCH
SPACE
TO
DRAW
HER?!

I NEVER GET
THAT KIND OF
TREATMENT!

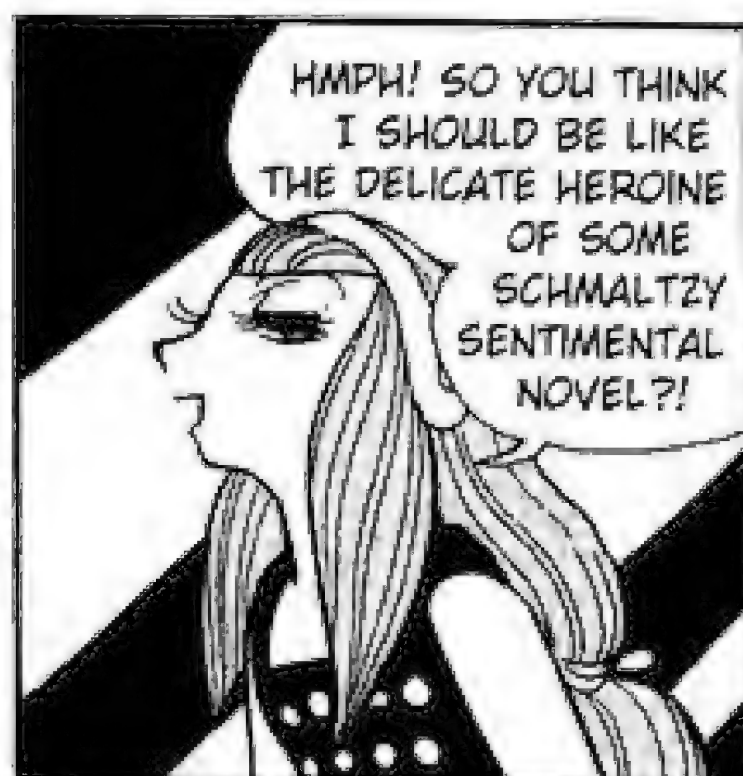
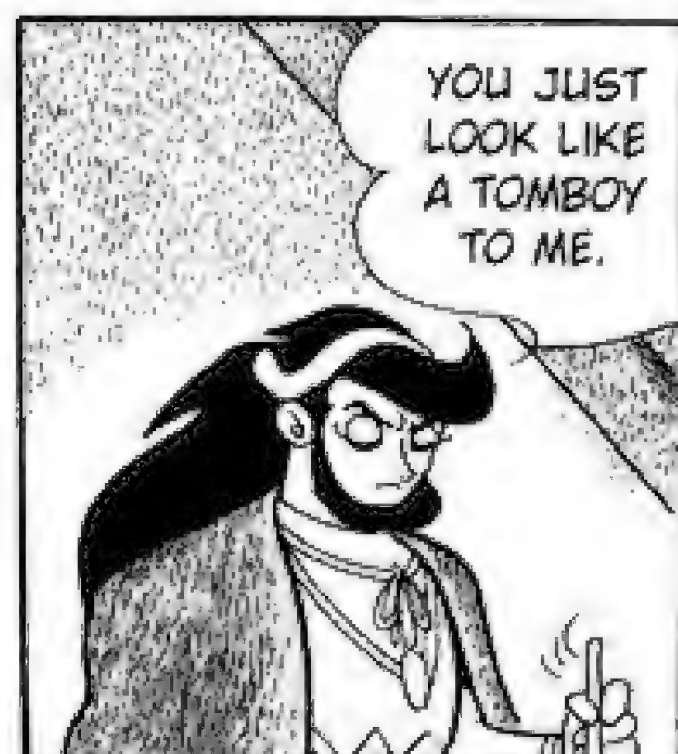
THIS IS
DAMAGING
TO MY IMAGE
AS KING!



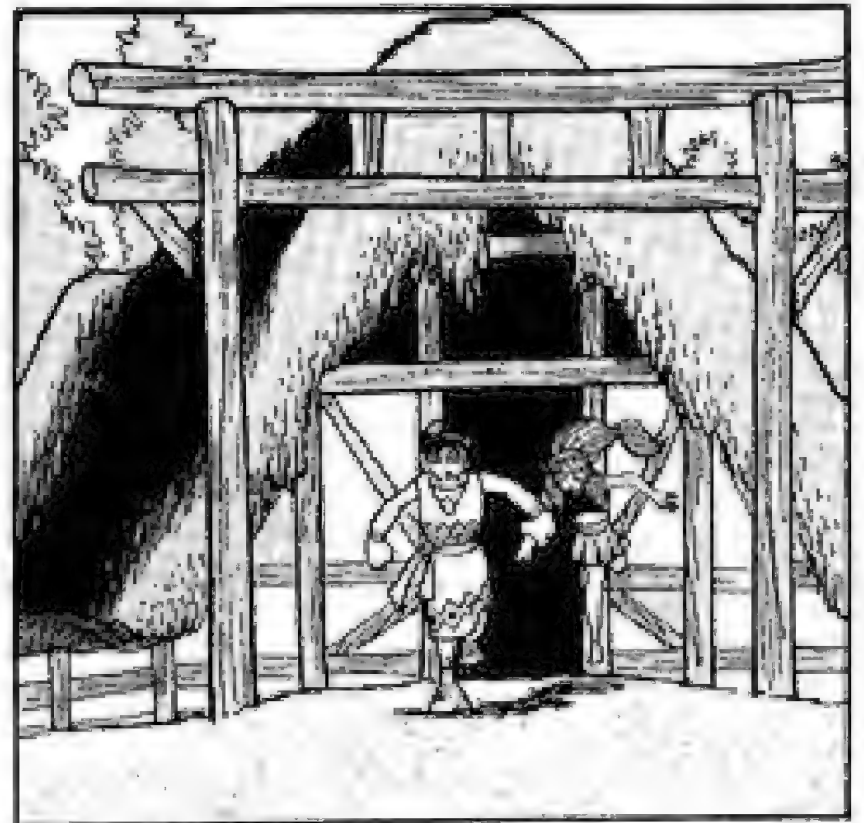
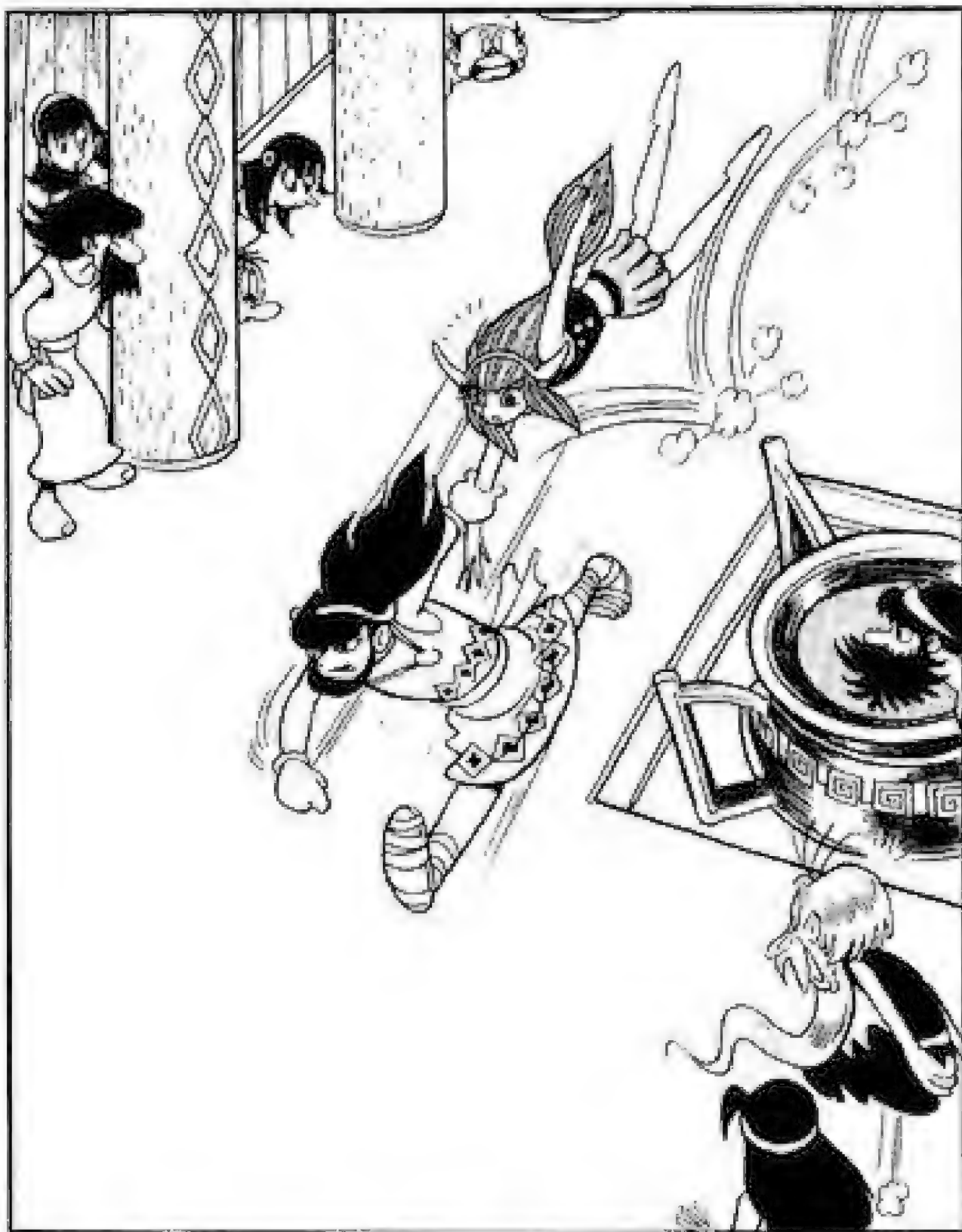
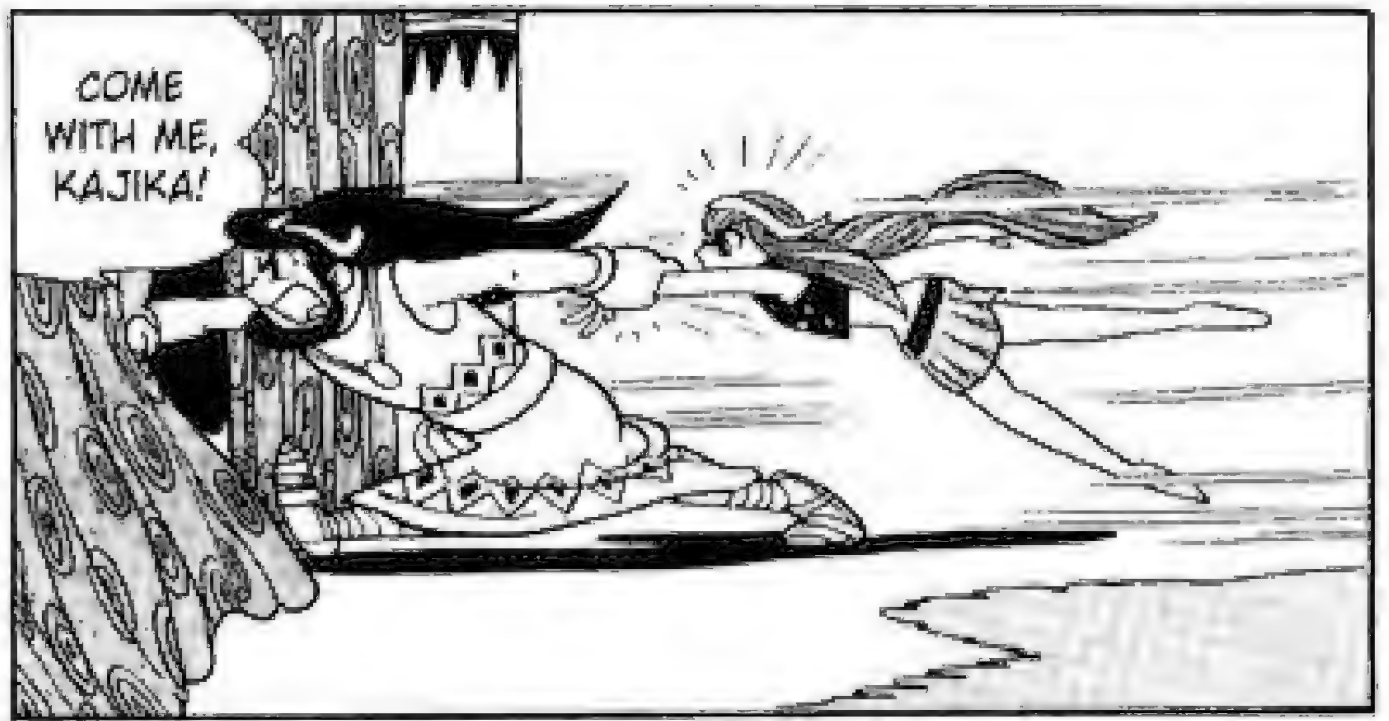
NOT AGAIN!
WHY DOES HE
EMPHASIZE HER
FACE LIKE THAT?

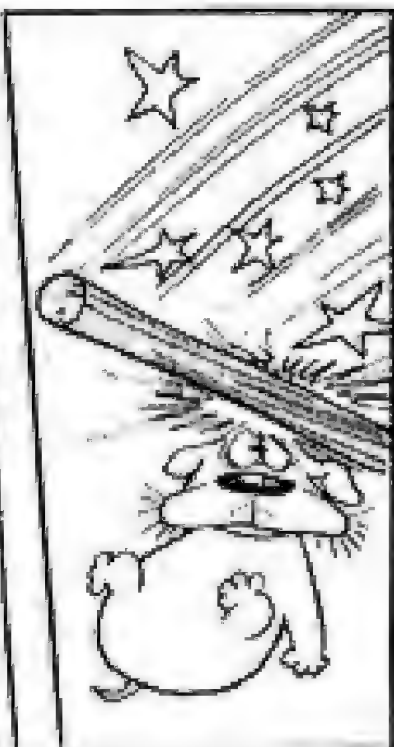
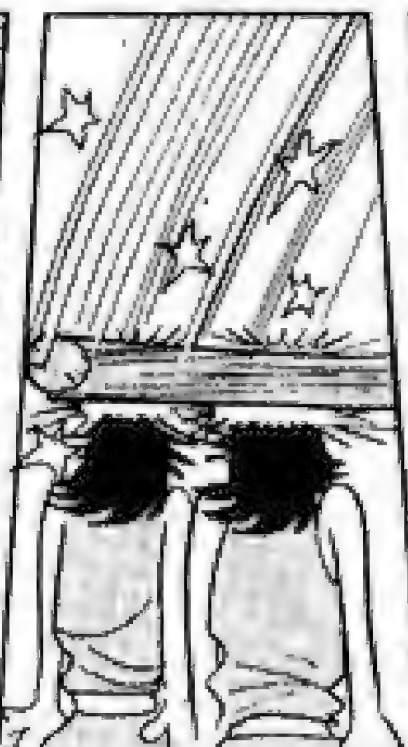
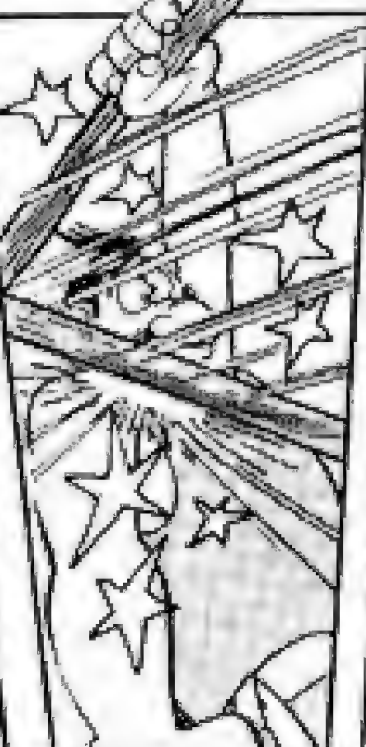
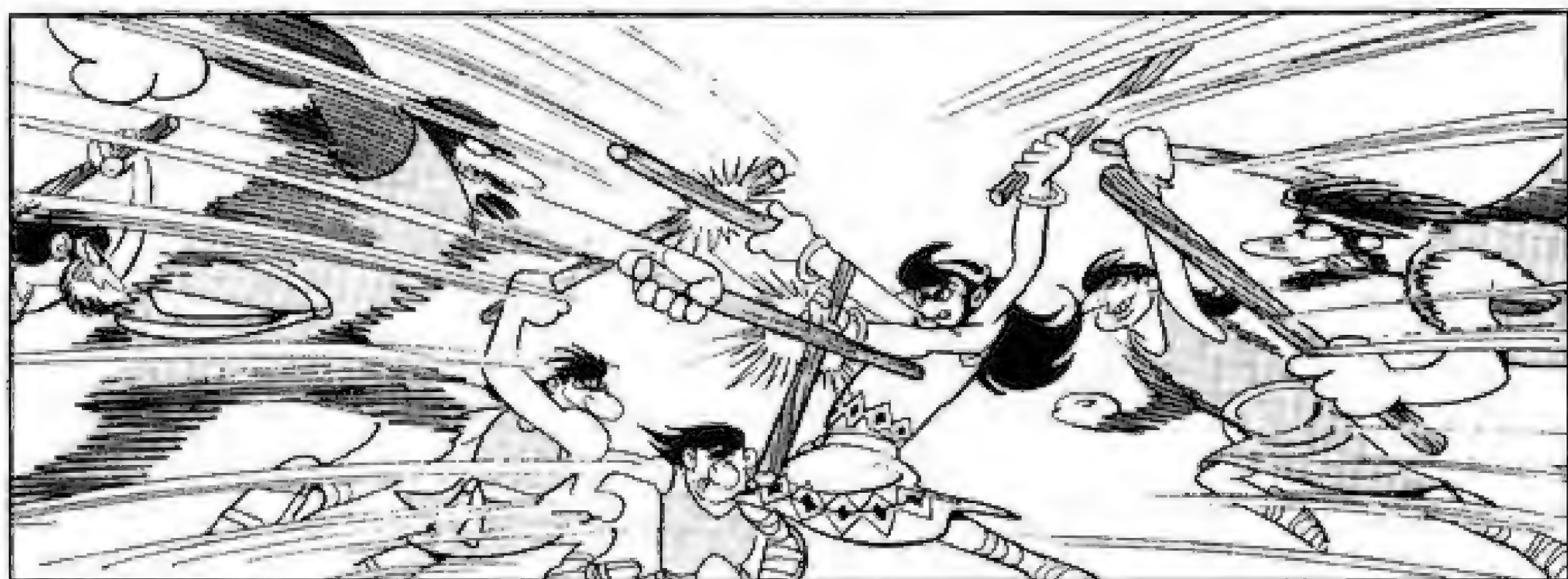
BECAUSE
SHE'S A
STAR, YOU
SAY?

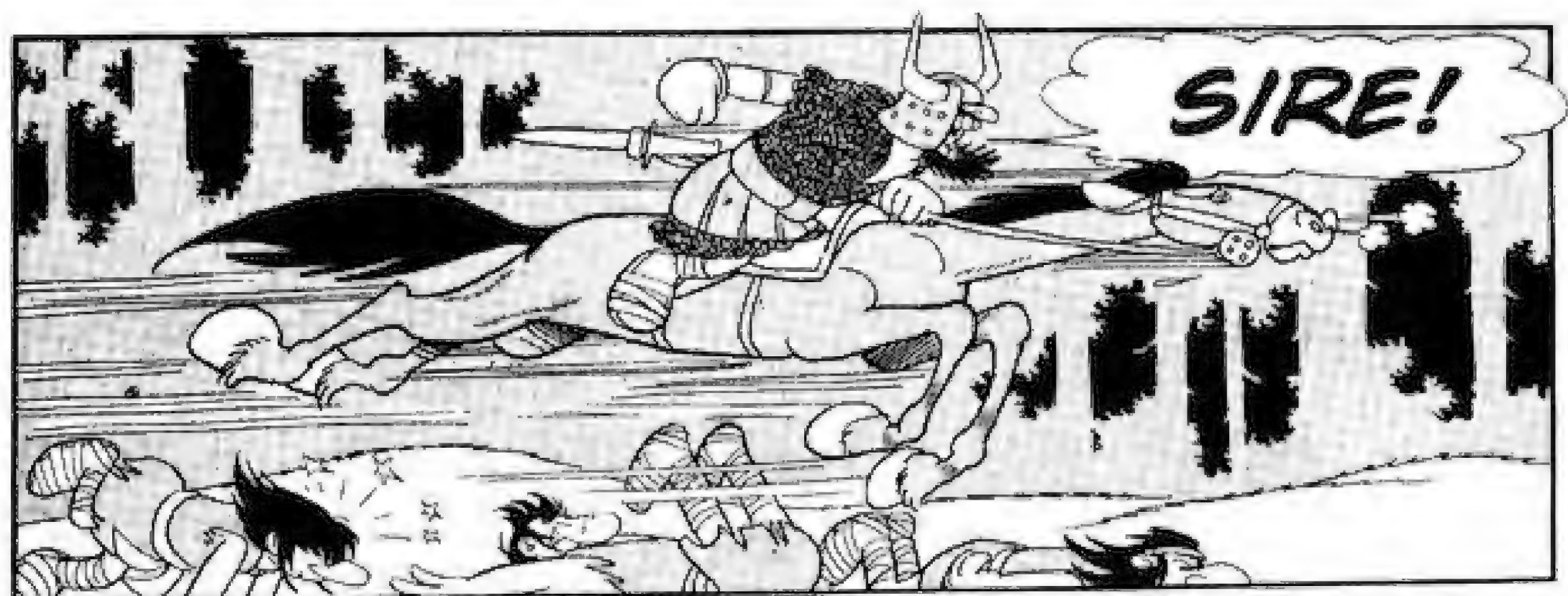
WELL WHAT
ABOUT A KING!?
DON'T I GET
ANY
RESPECT?!

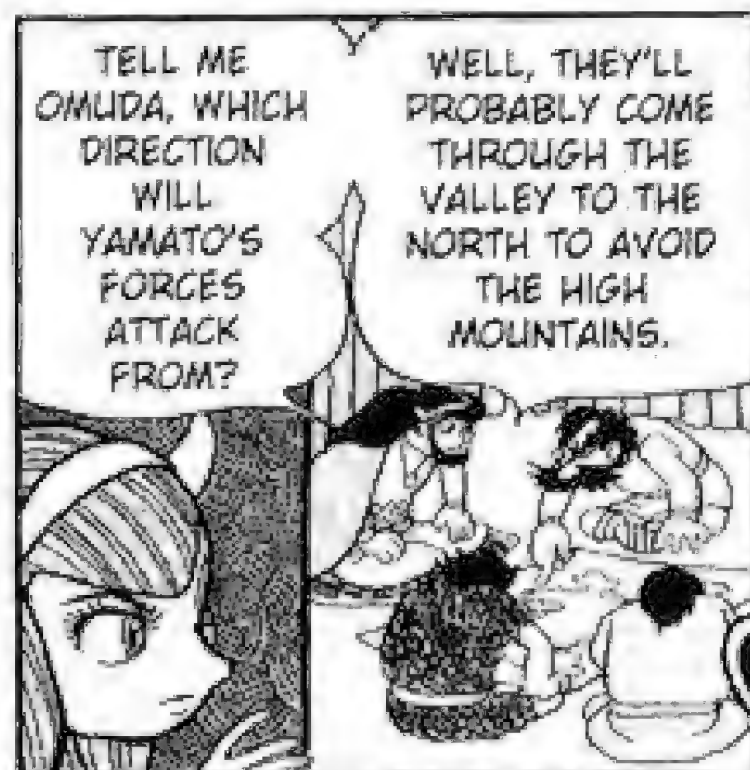
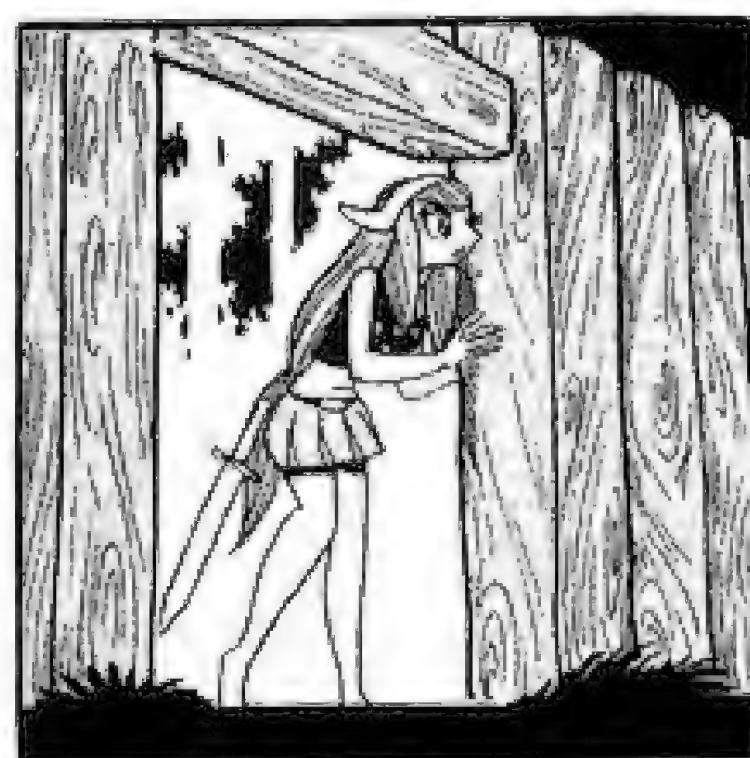


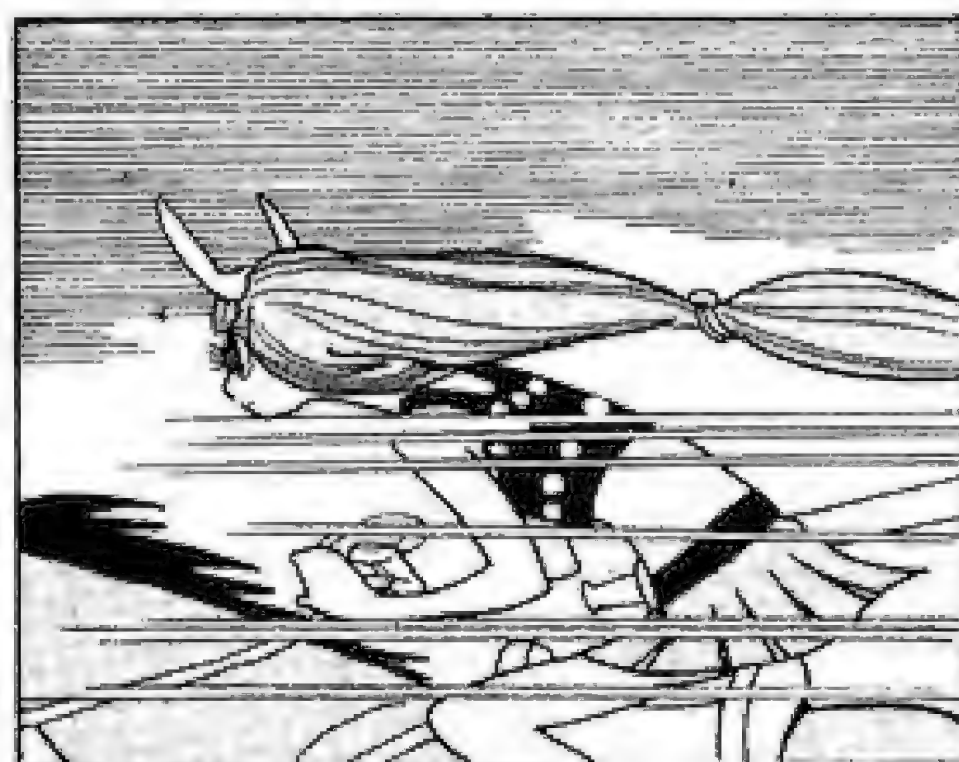
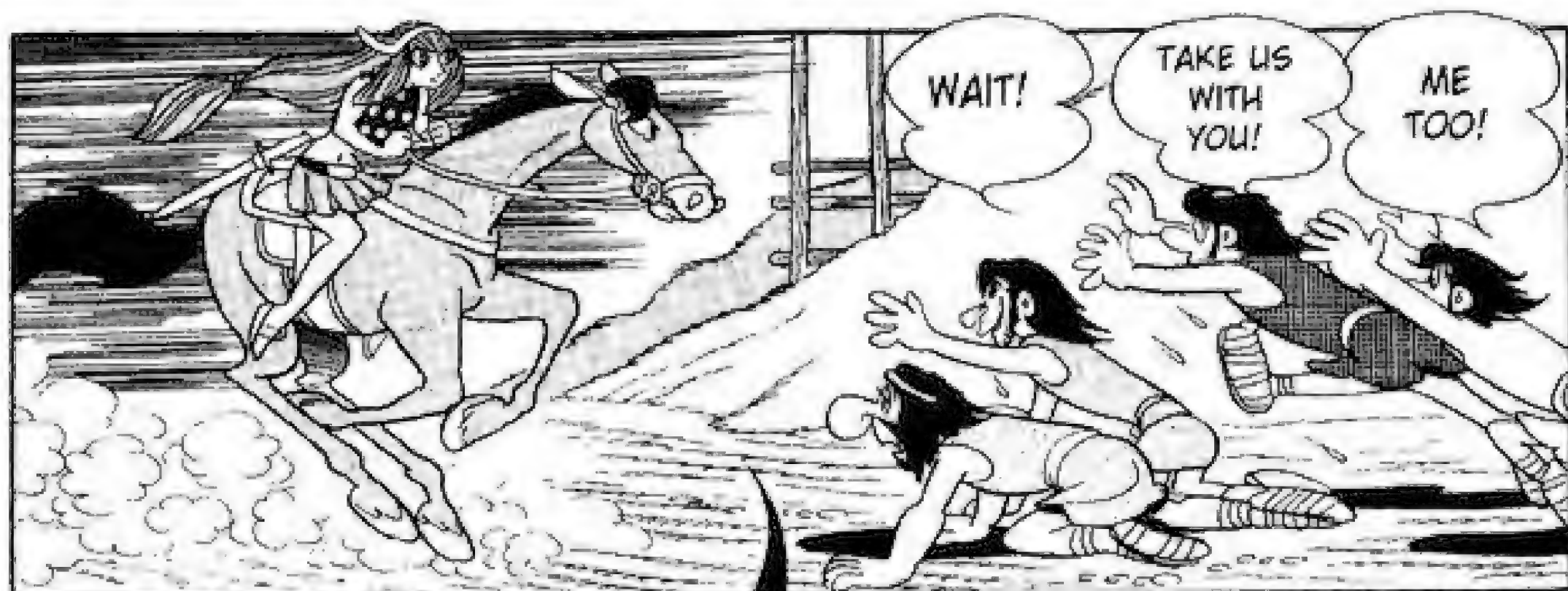


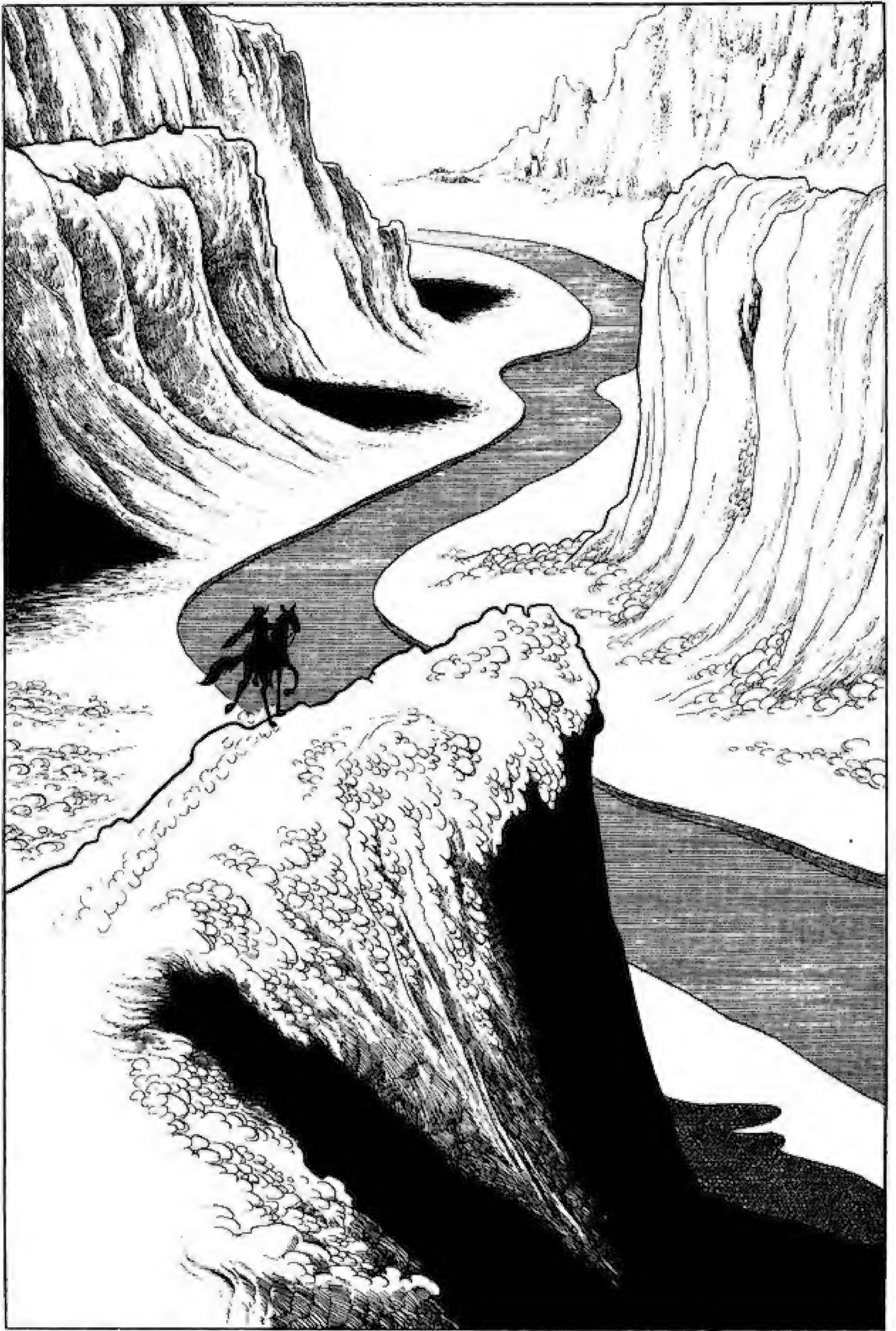




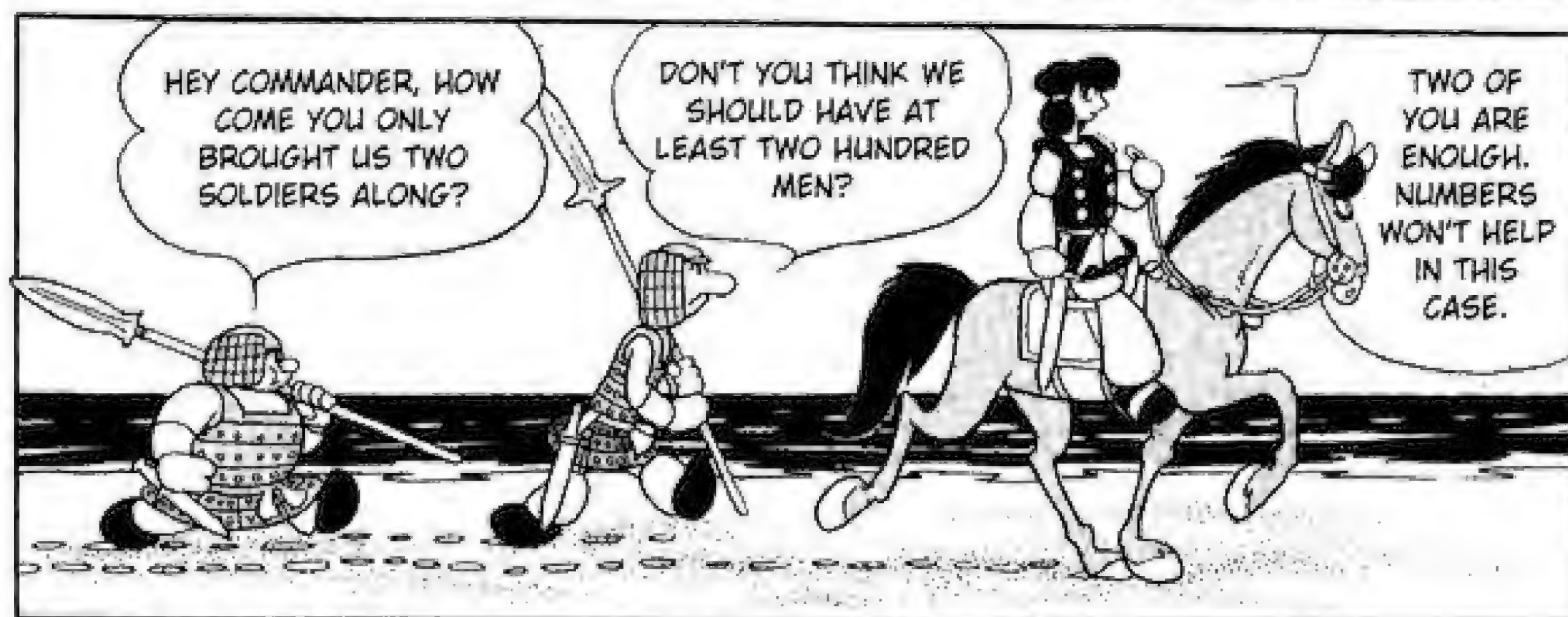
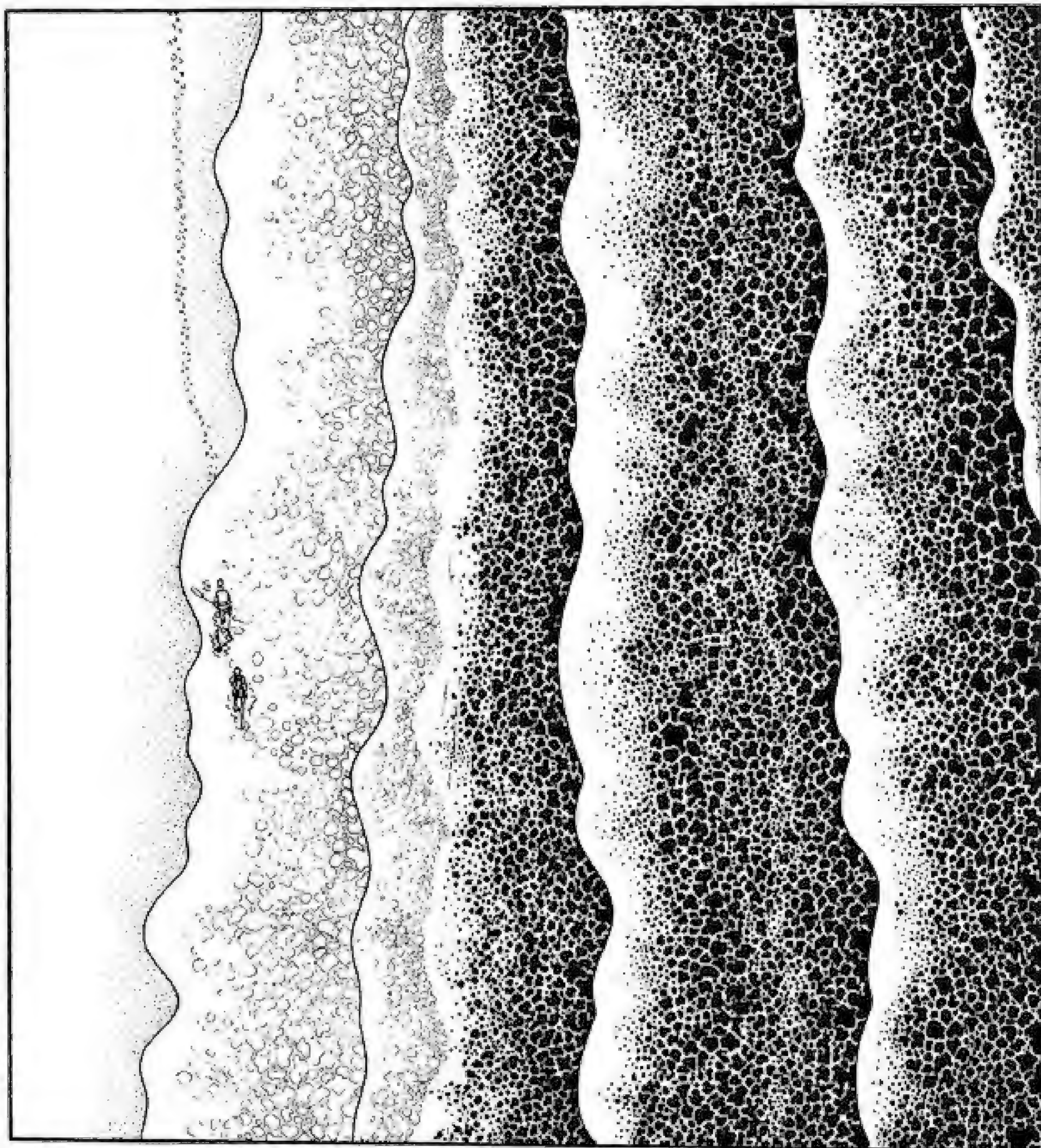


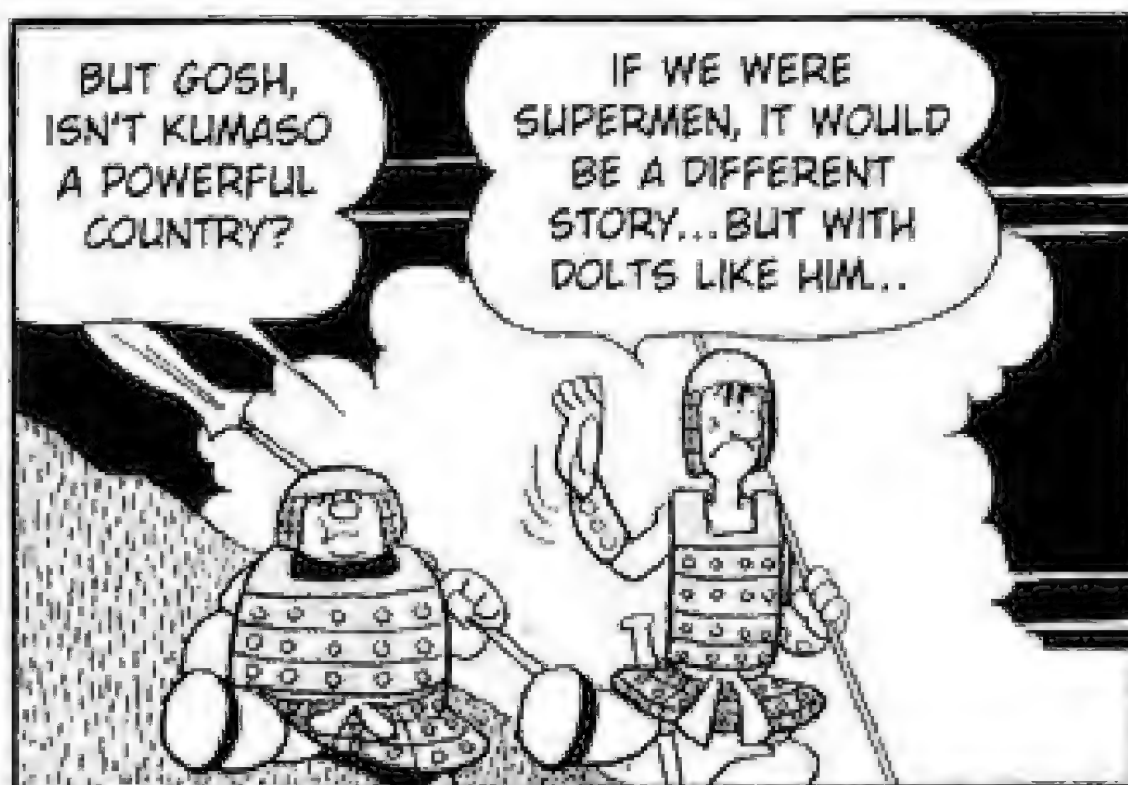


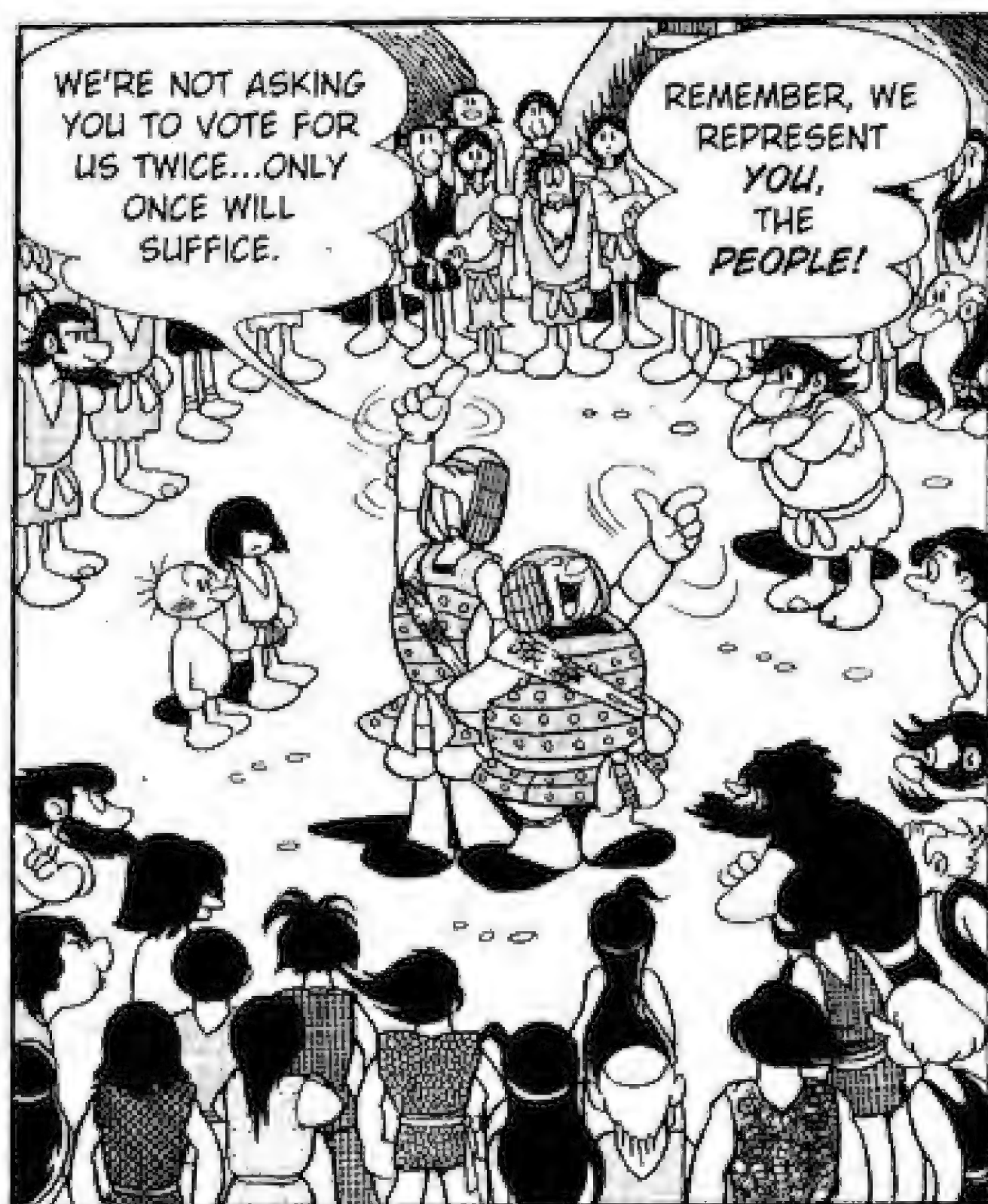
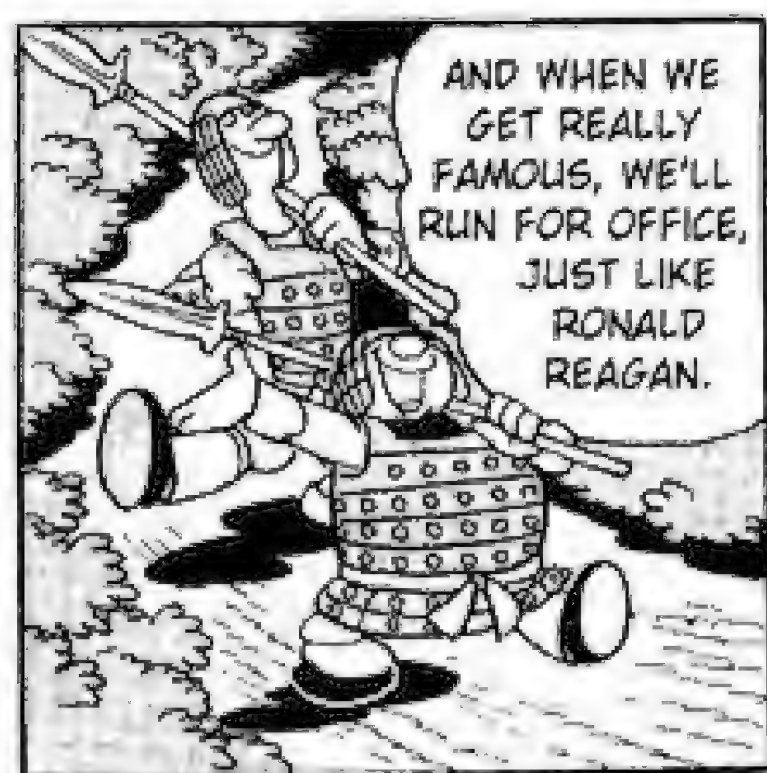
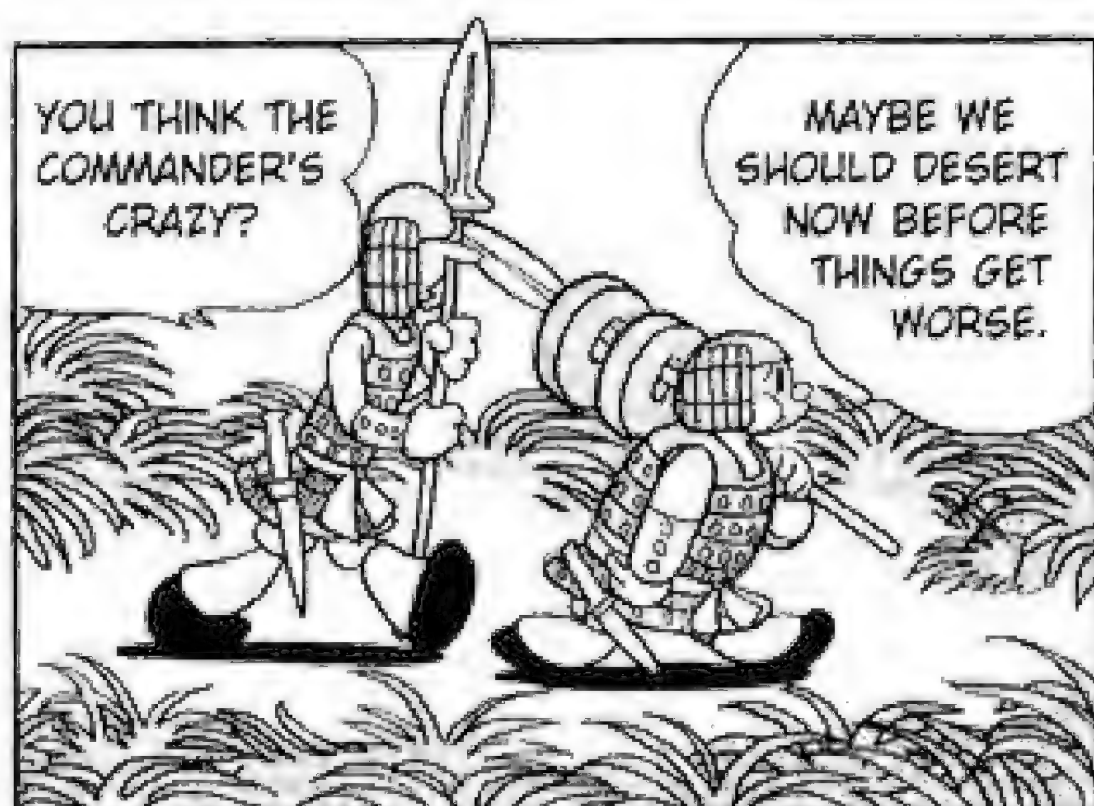
















B-BUT
WHAT IF THEY
CATCH ON TO
YOUR PLAN
BEFORE YOU
CAN CARRY IT
OUT?

WHAT WILL
HAPPEN WILL
HAPPEN. WE
JUST HAVE TO
LEAVE IT TO
FATE.



LOOK.
SEE THAT
SMOKE?



IT'S COMING
FROM THE
MOUTH OF
THE FIRE
MOUNTAIN.

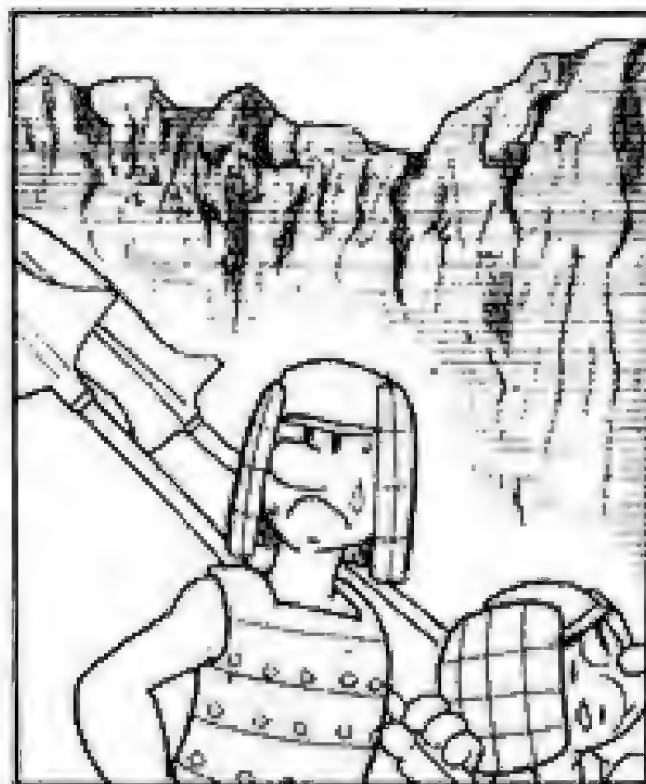
ONCE YOU CAN SEE
THAT SMOKE,
YOU'RE IN KUMASO
TERRITORY.
STAY ALERT NOW.

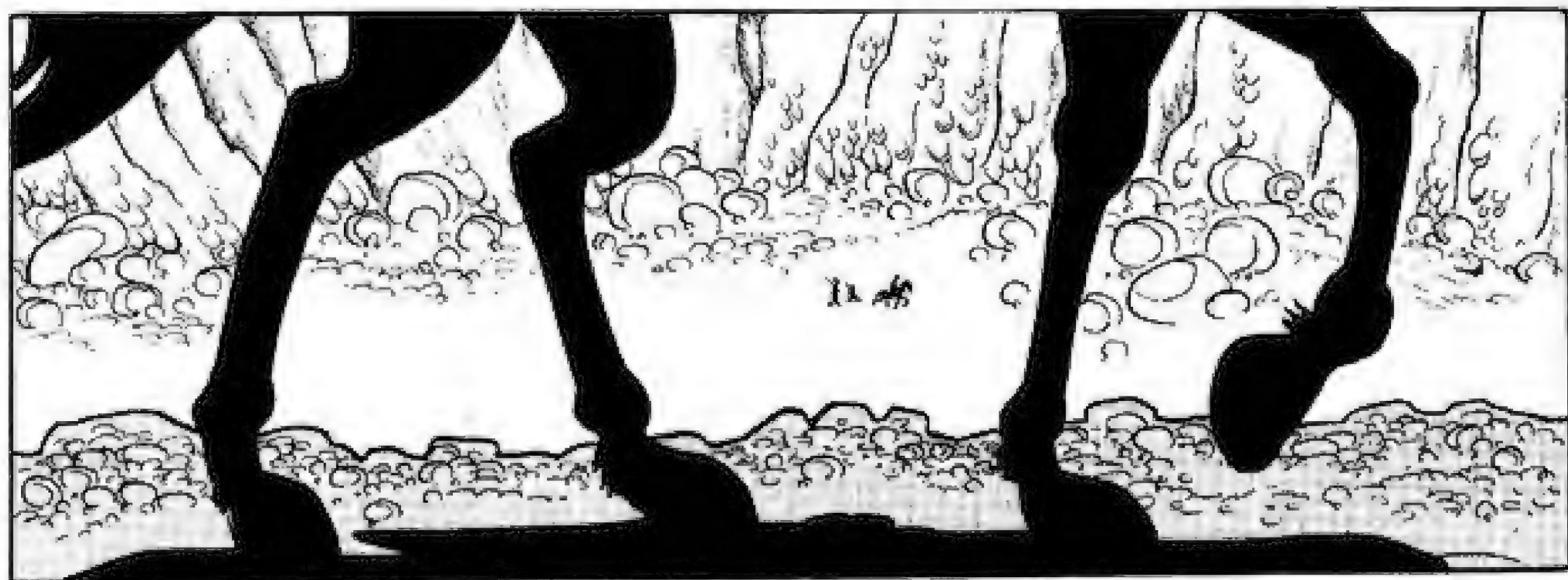


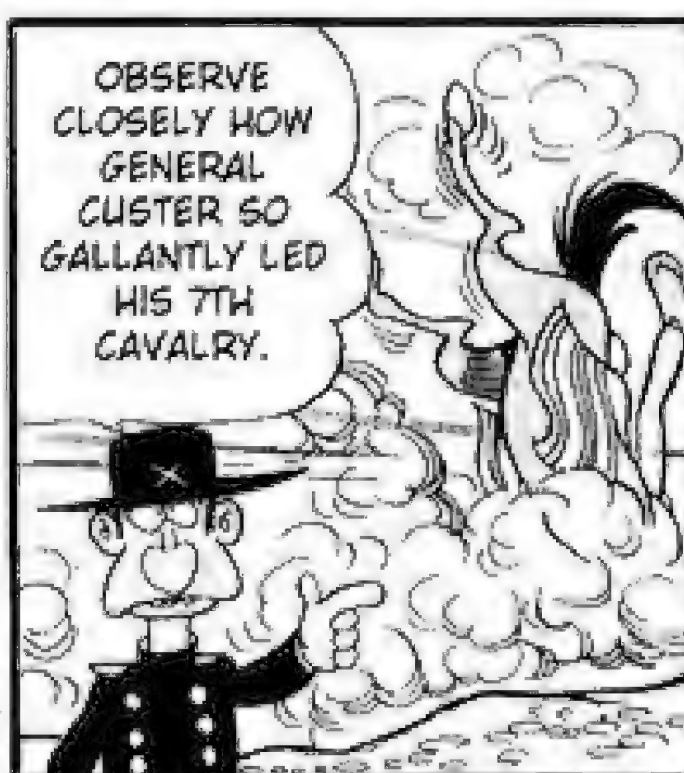
OH NO...
OH NO...
WE'RE
FINALLY
HERE...

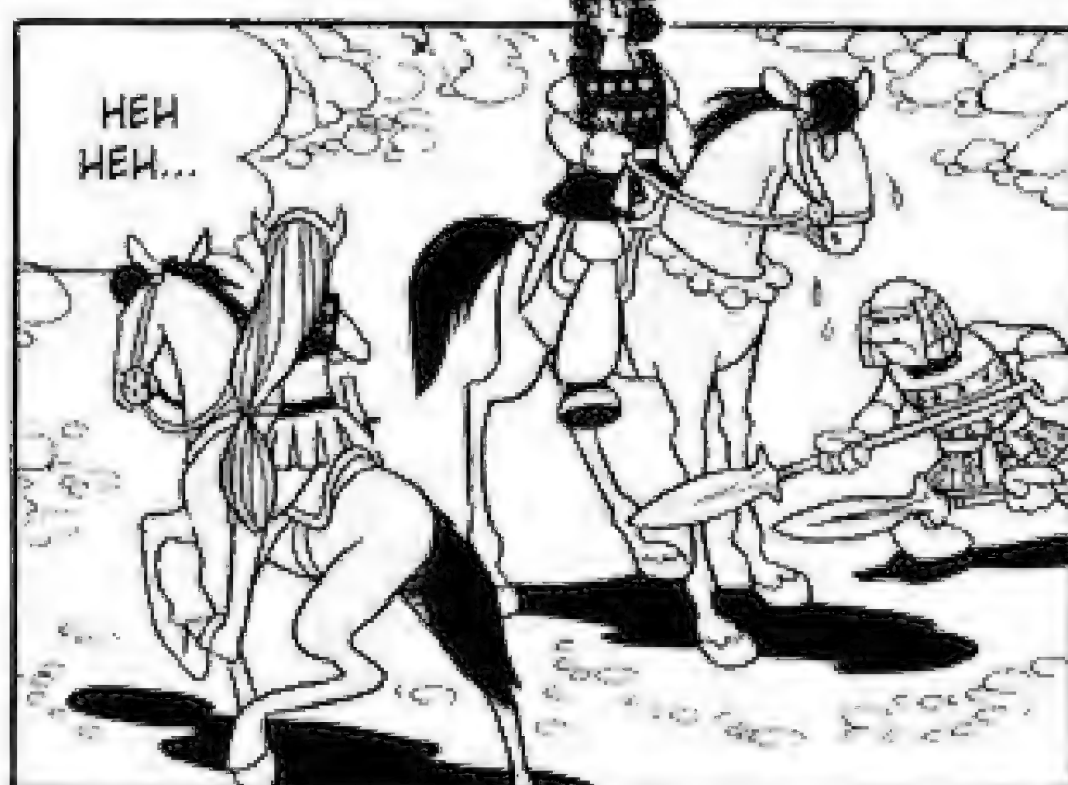
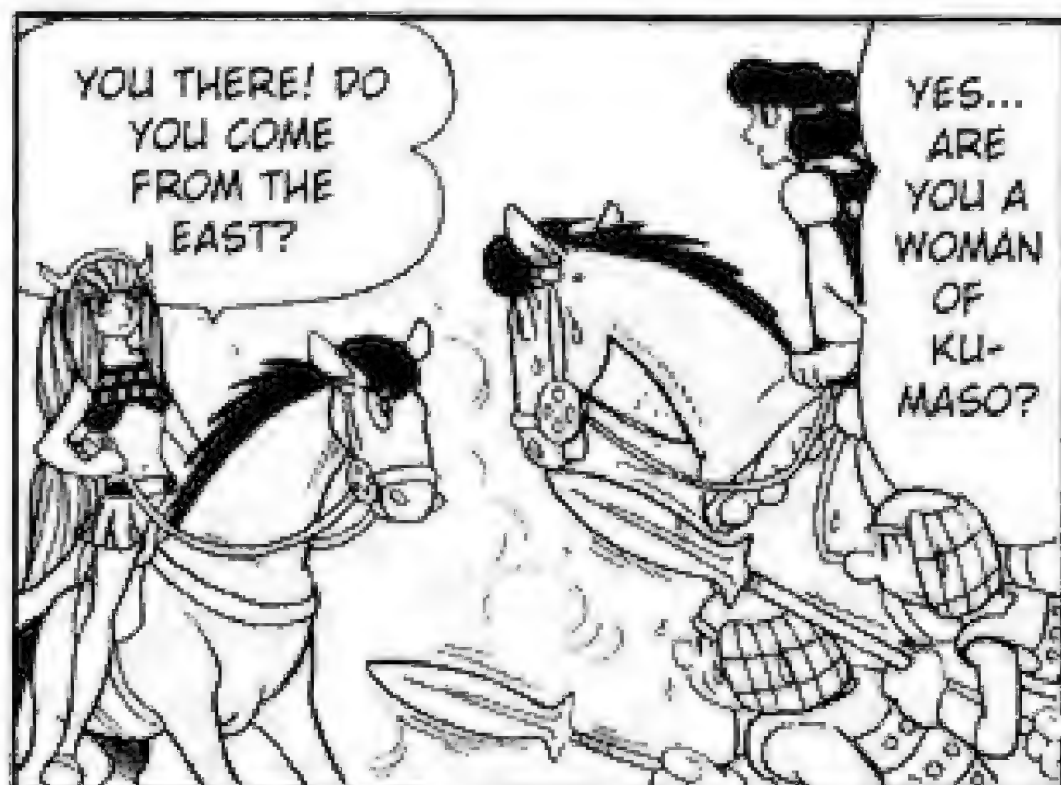
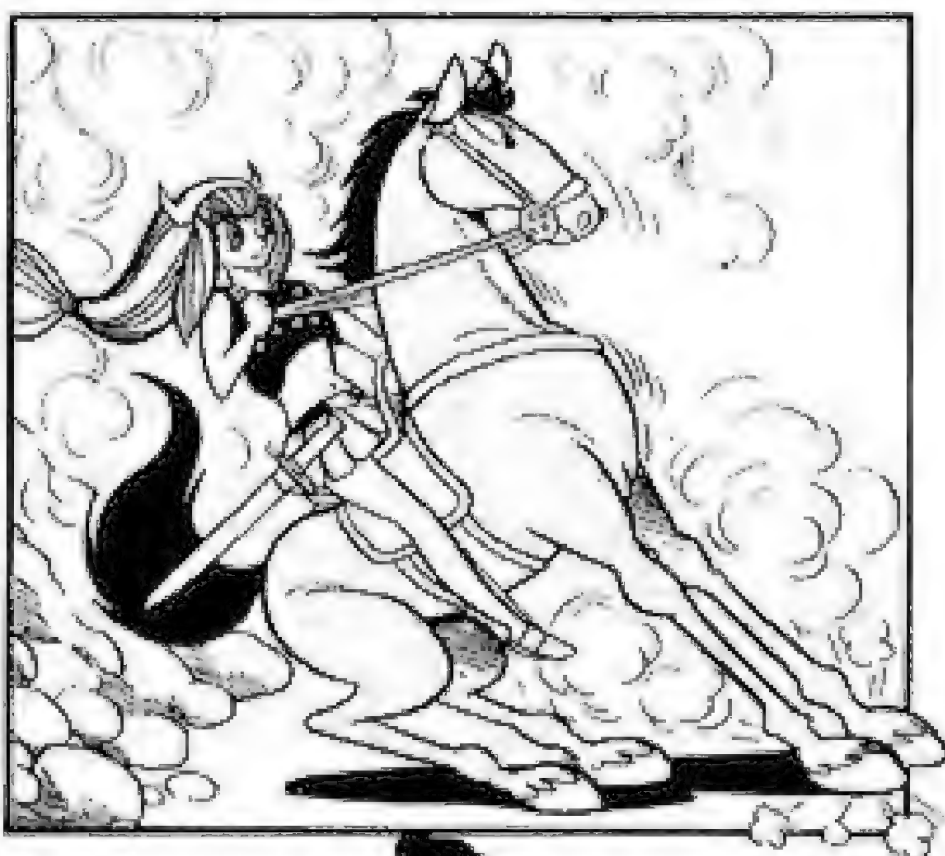
I JUST
REMEMBERED...
I'VE GOT A DENTIST
APPOINTMENT BACK
HOME...

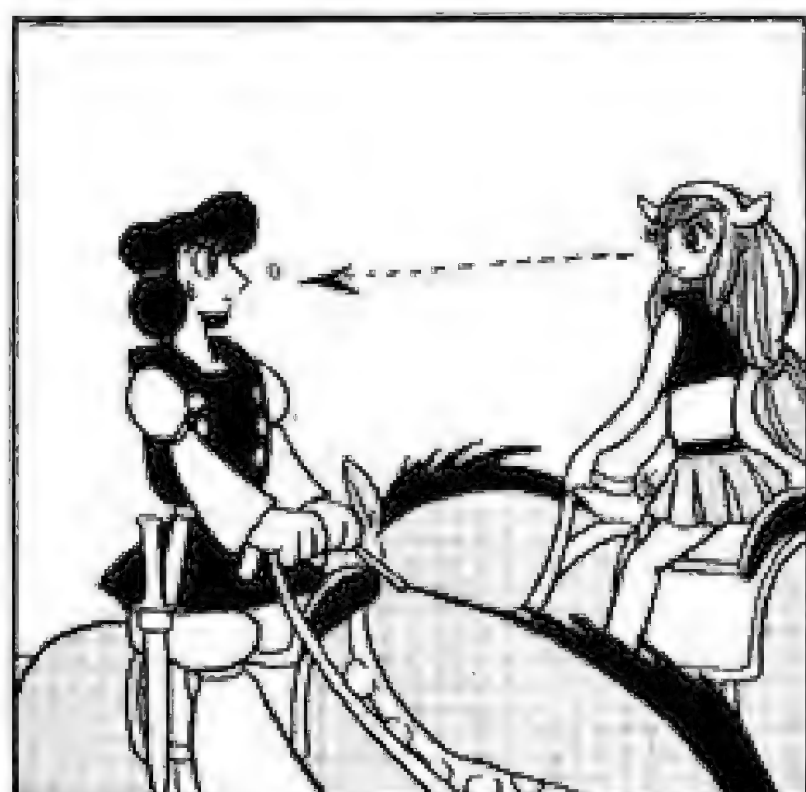


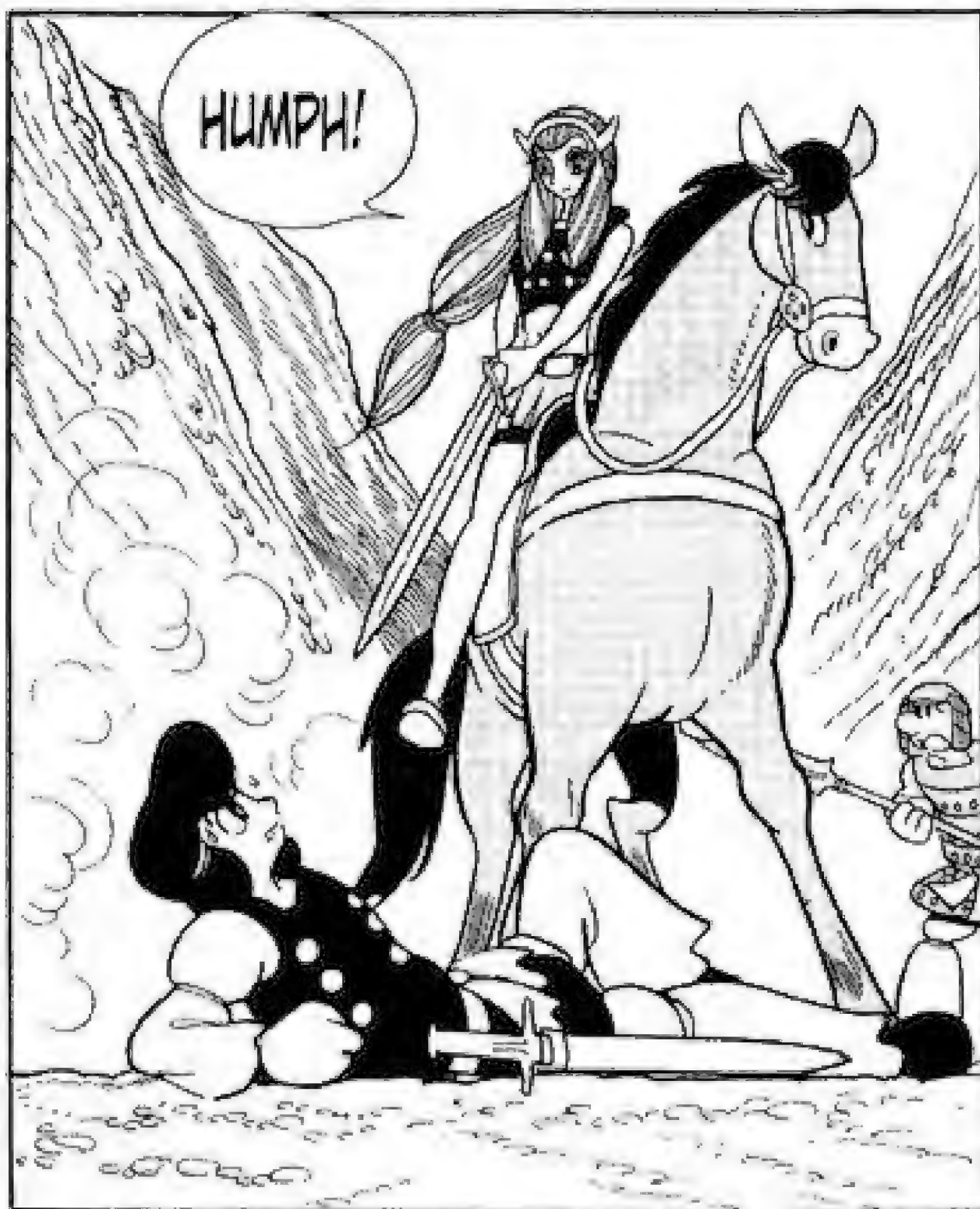


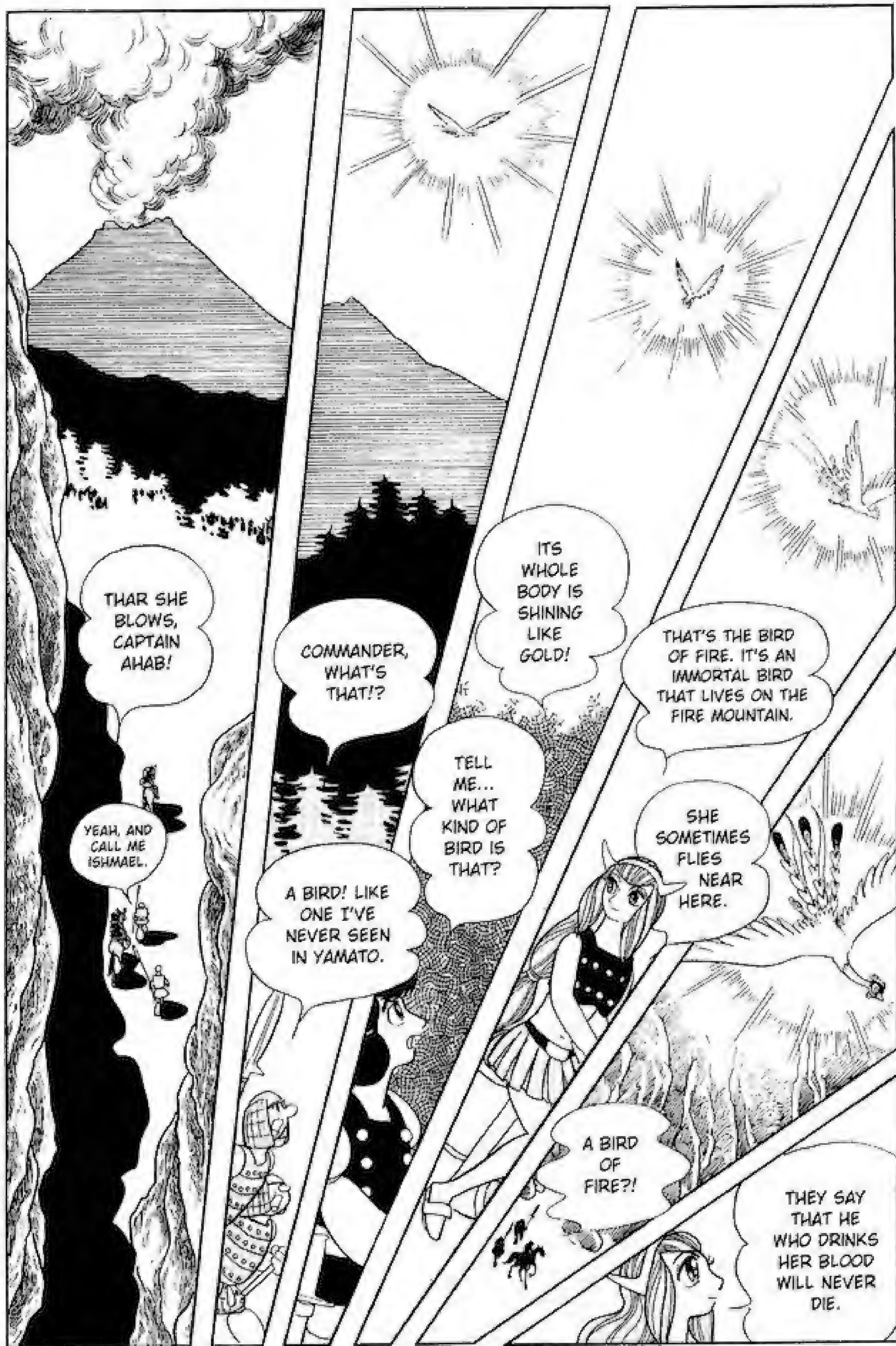












THAT SHE
BLOWS,
CAPTAIN
AHAB!

YEAH, AND
CALL ME
ISHMAEL.

COMMANDER,
WHAT'S
THAT!?

A BIRD! LIKE
ONE I'VE
NEVER SEEN
IN YAMATO.

ITS
WHOLE
BODY IS
SHINING
LIKE
GOLD!

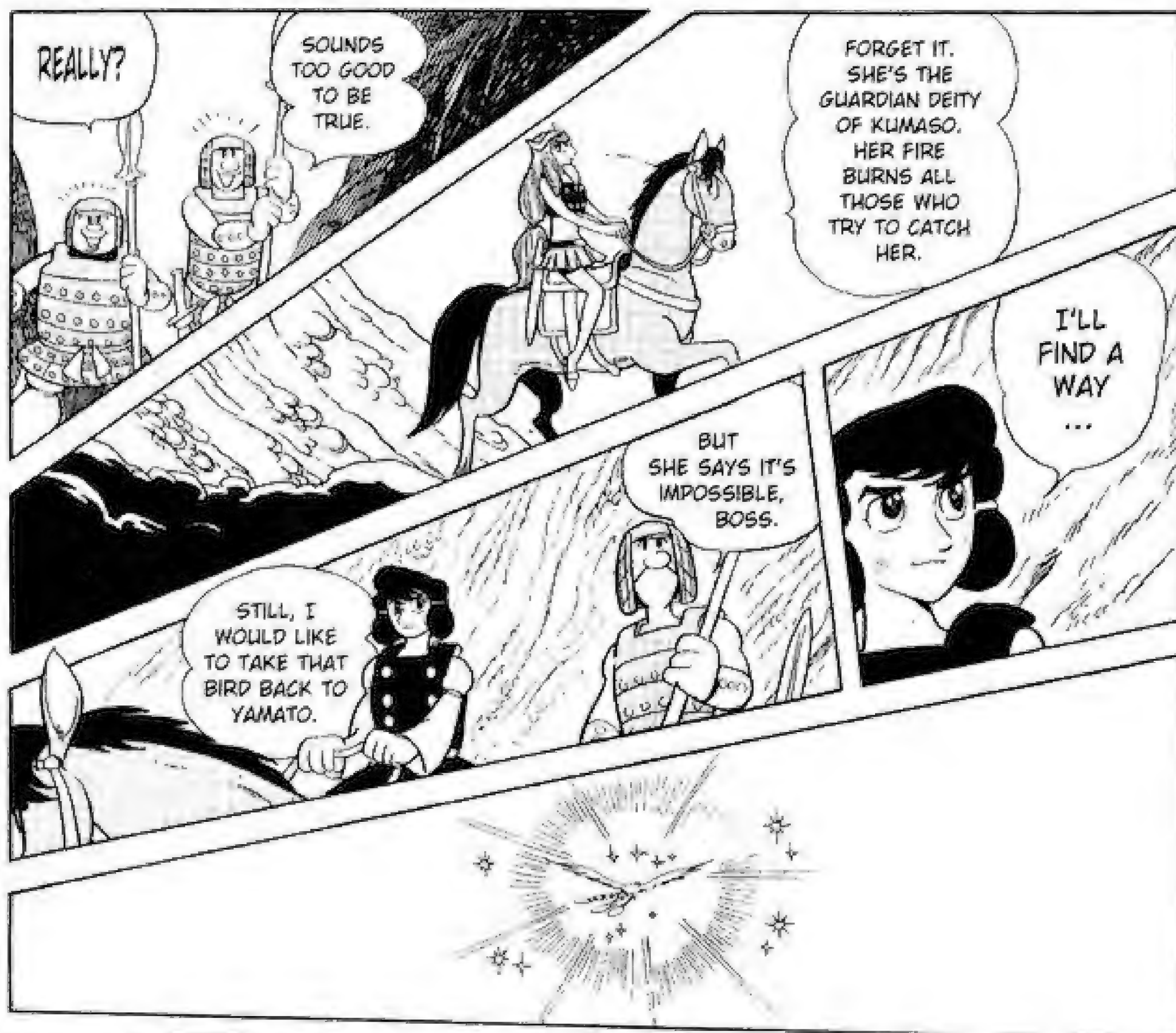
TELL
ME...
WHAT
KIND OF
BIRD IS
THAT?

THAT'S THE BIRD
OF FIRE. IT'S AN
IMMORTAL BIRD
THAT LIVES ON THE
FIRE MOUNTAIN.

SHE
SOMETIMES
FLIES
NEAR
HERE.

A BIRD
OF
FIRE?!

THEY SAY
THAT HE
WHO DRINKS
HER BLOOD
WILL NEVER
DIE.





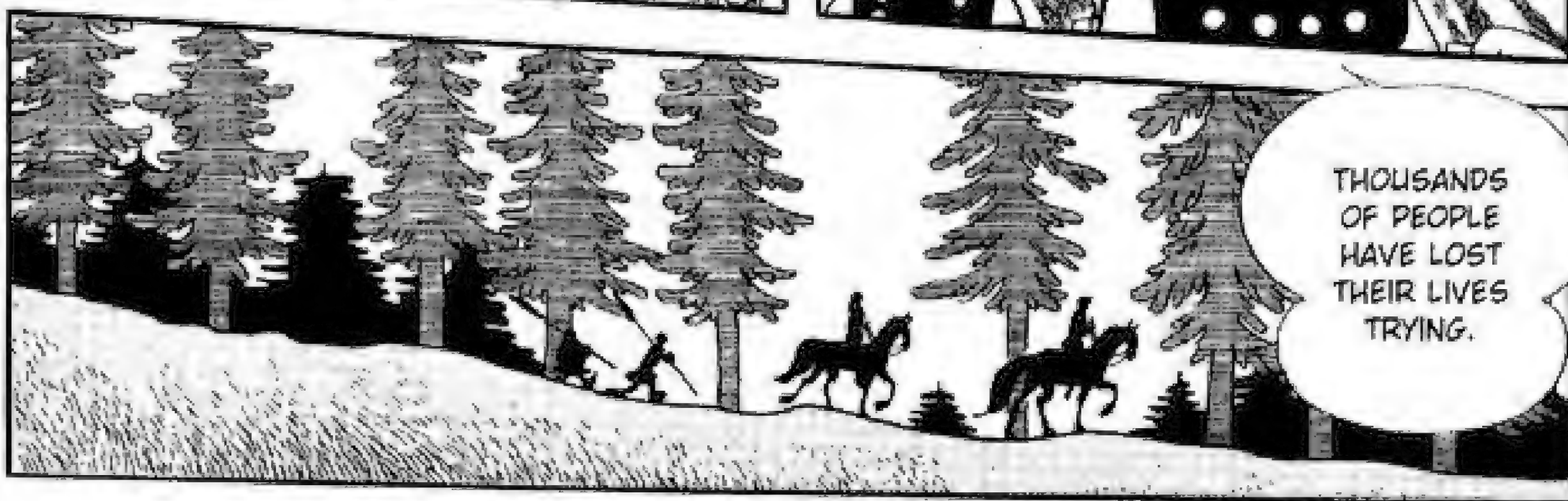
SO YOU PLAN TO HAVE ALL TWO THOUSAND SACRIFICES DRINK THE BLOOD OF THAT BIRD? IT SEEMS LIKE THERE WOULDN'T BE ENOUGH.

WELL, IF I COULD GIVE EACH PERSON ONE DROP IT WOULD HELP...



WHAT DO YOU THINK?!

YOU'LL NEVER CATCH HER.



THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE HAVE LOST THEIR LIVES TRYING.



SO THIS IS THE HEART OF KUMASO...

LOOKS LIKE THE SET FOR A KUROSAWA MOVIE TO ME.



WHERE'S THE ARMY FROM YAMATO? IS THAT IT?!

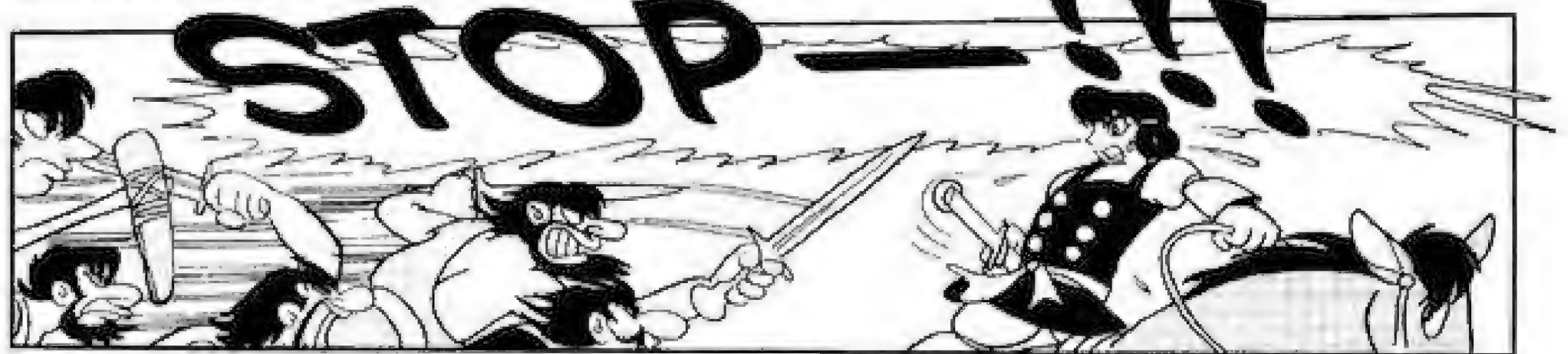
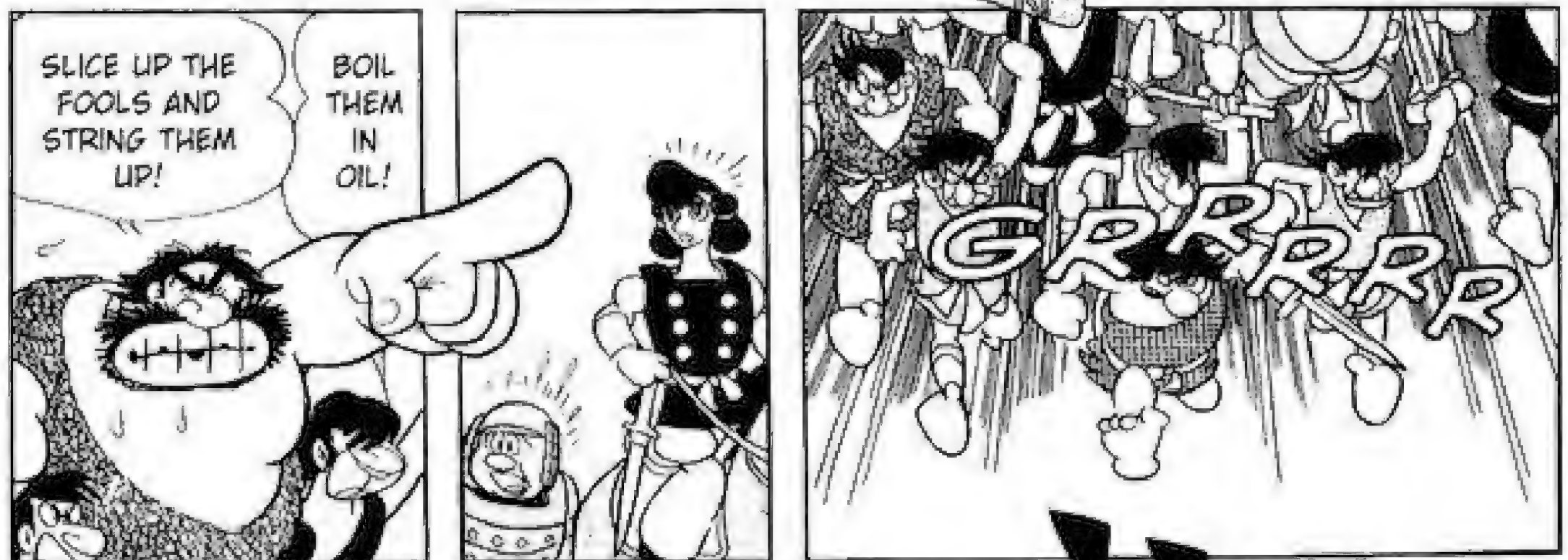
Ha Ha

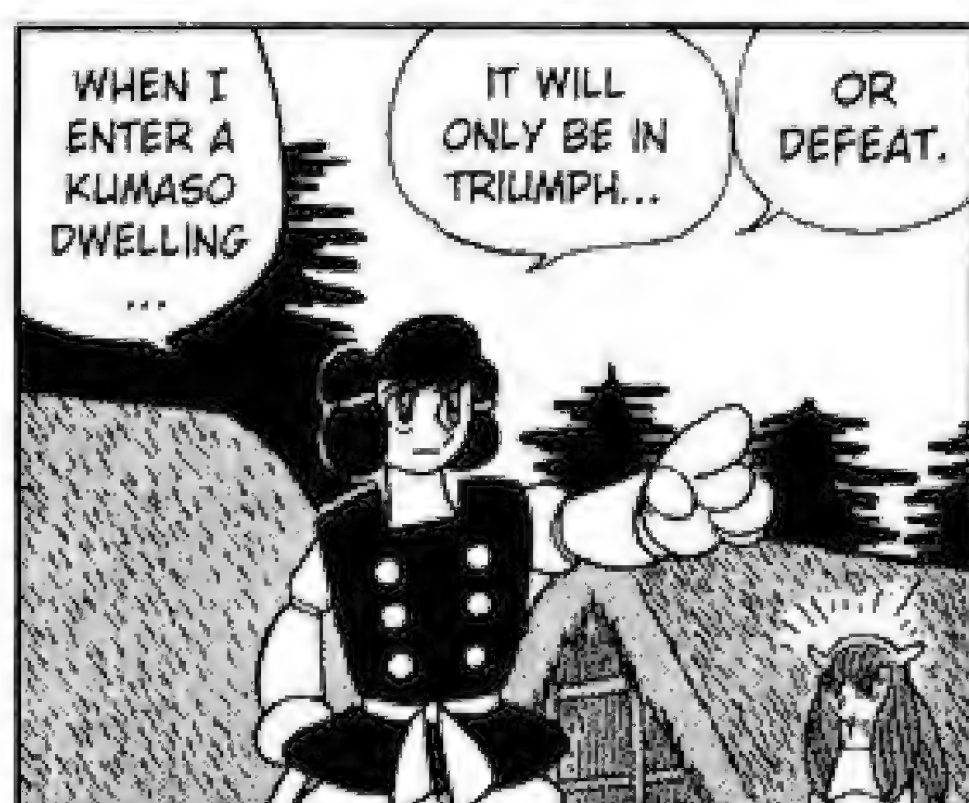
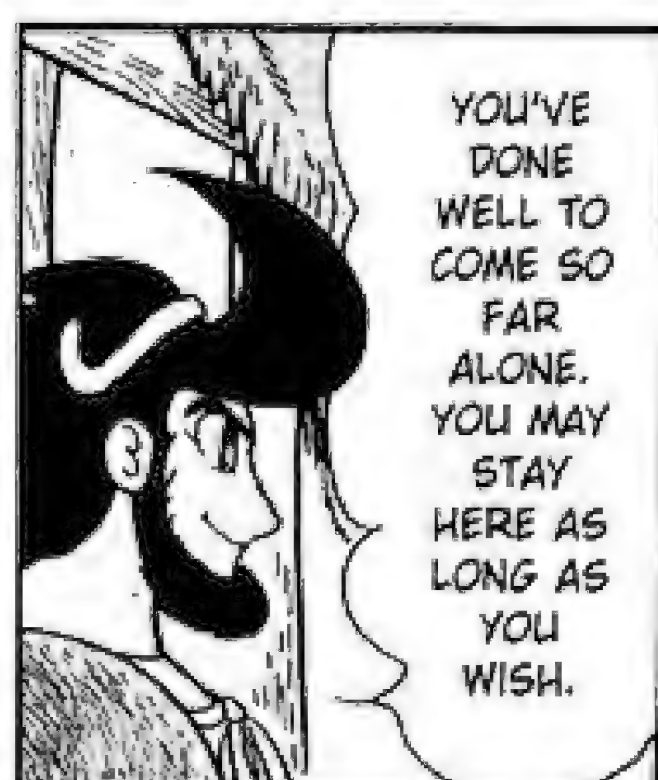
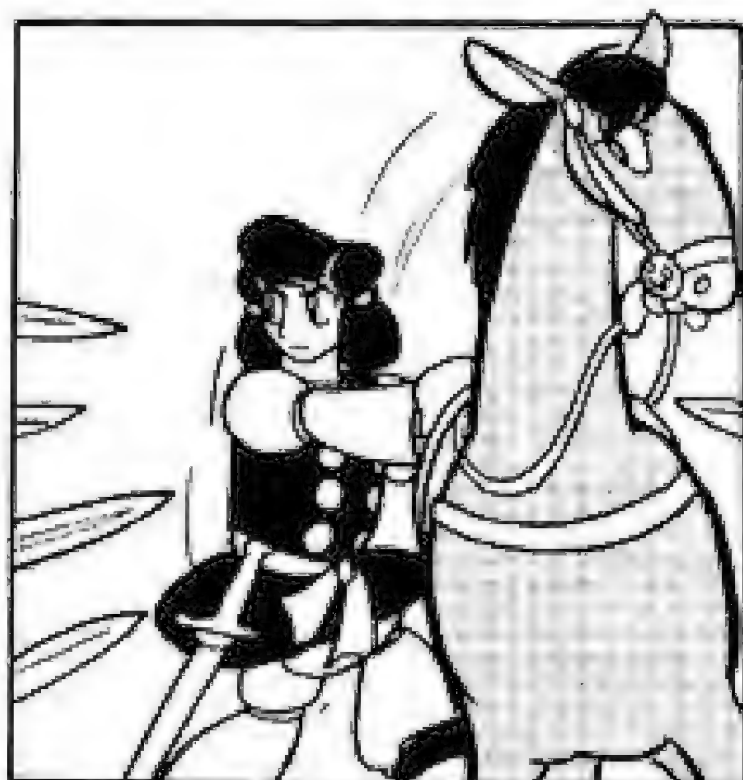
HA HA HA HA

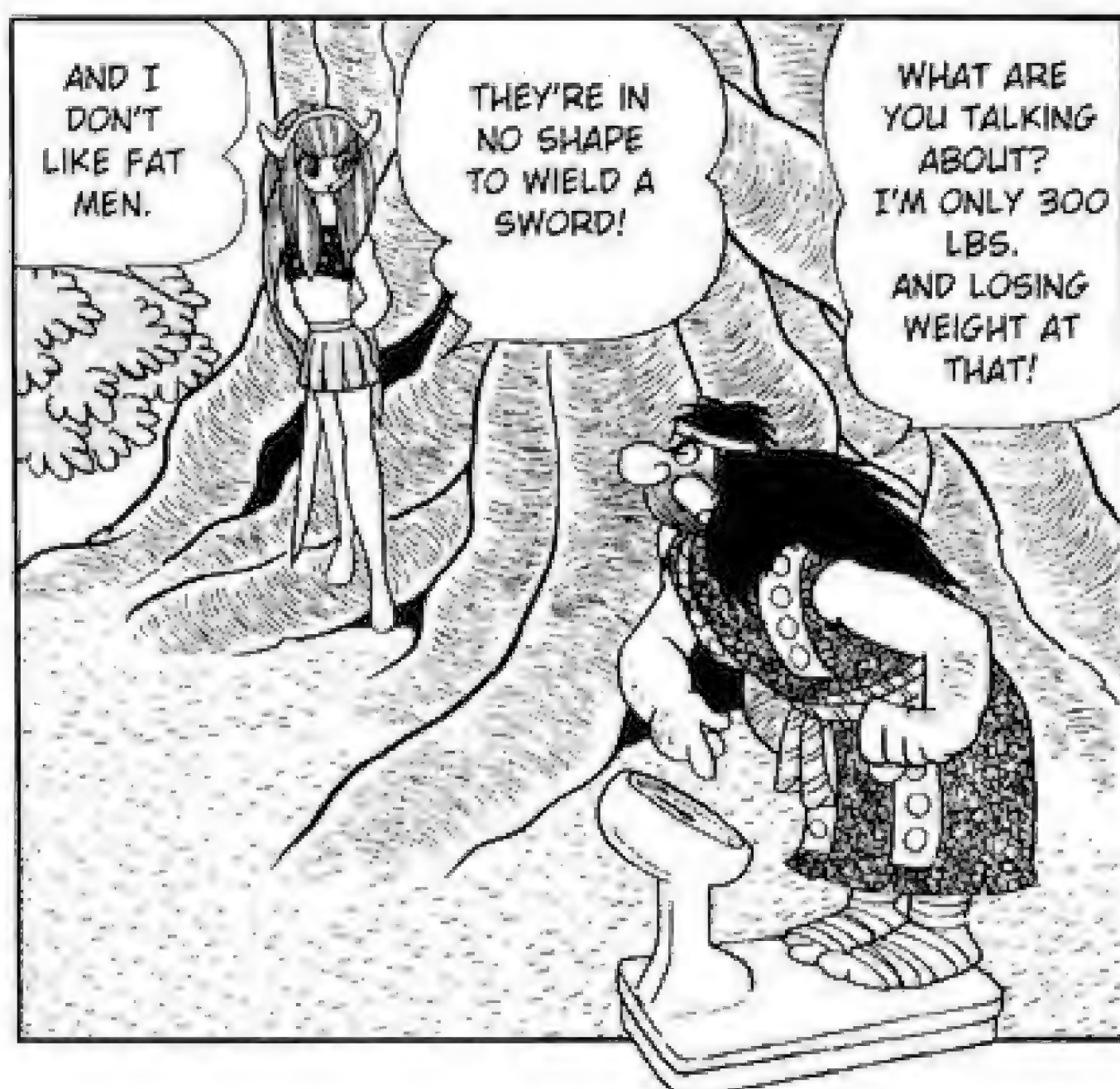
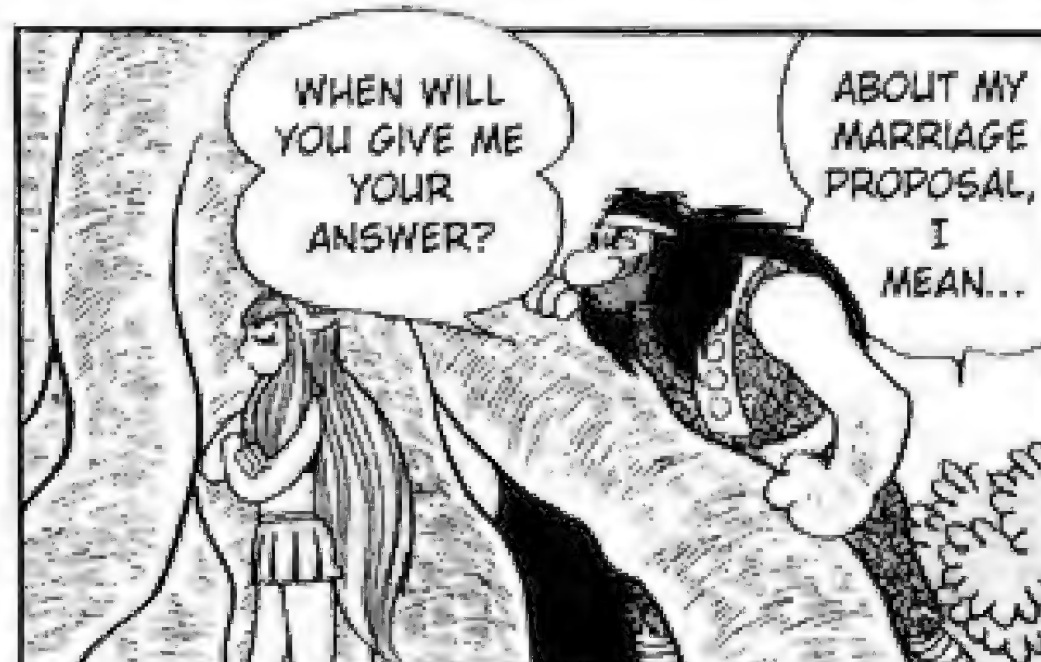
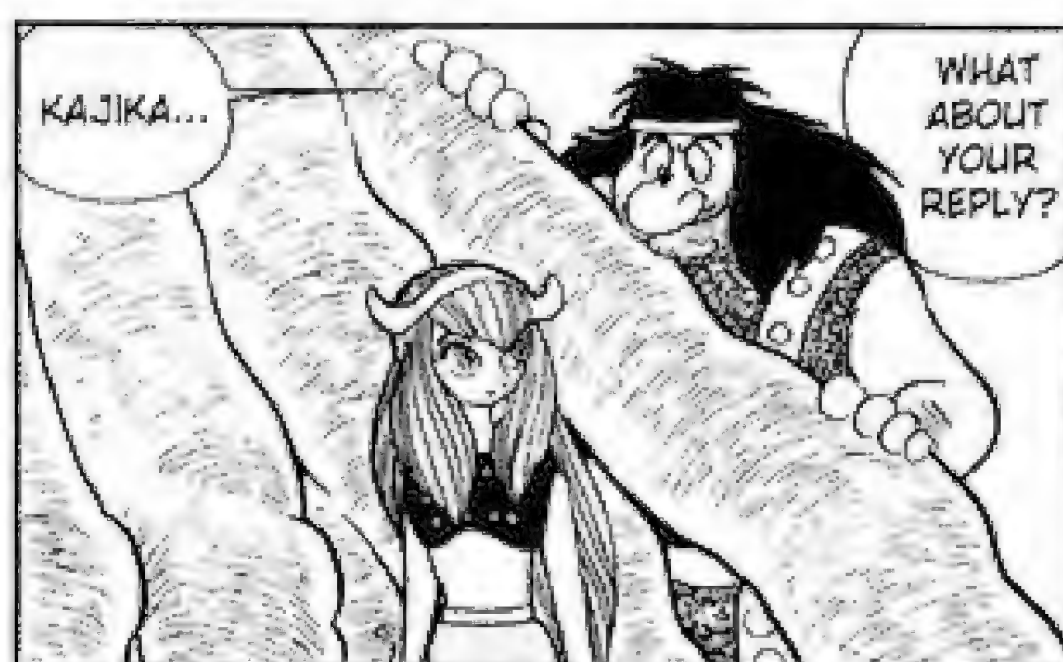
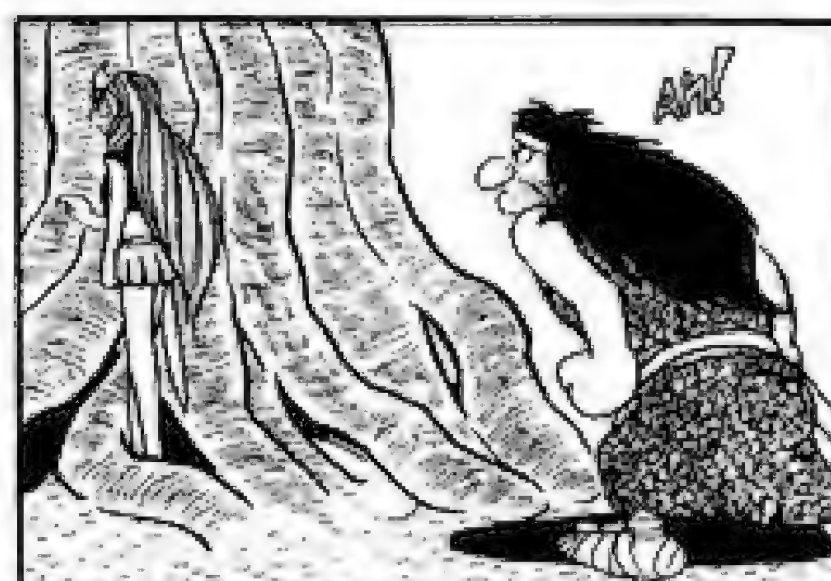
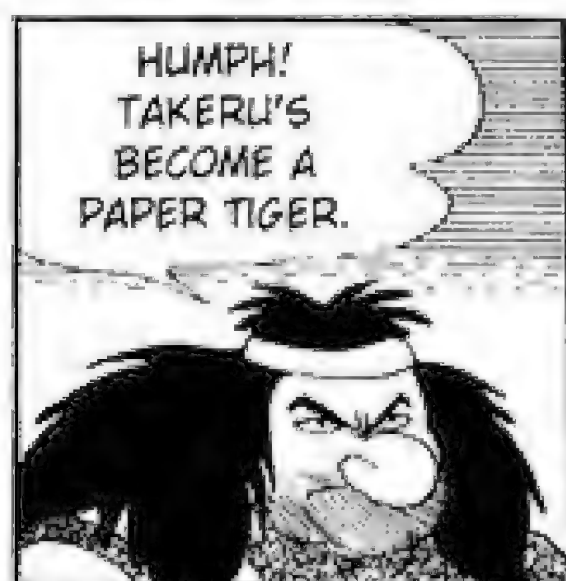
Har Har

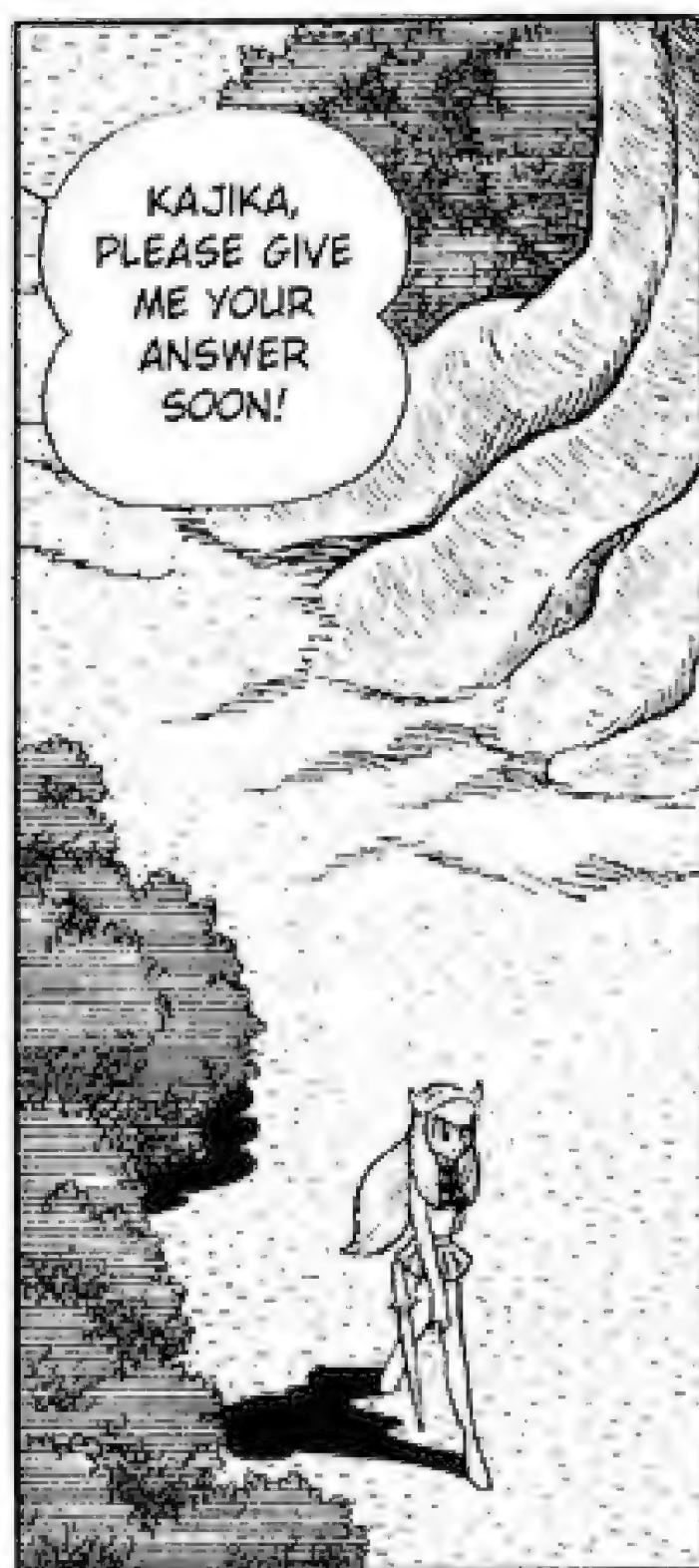
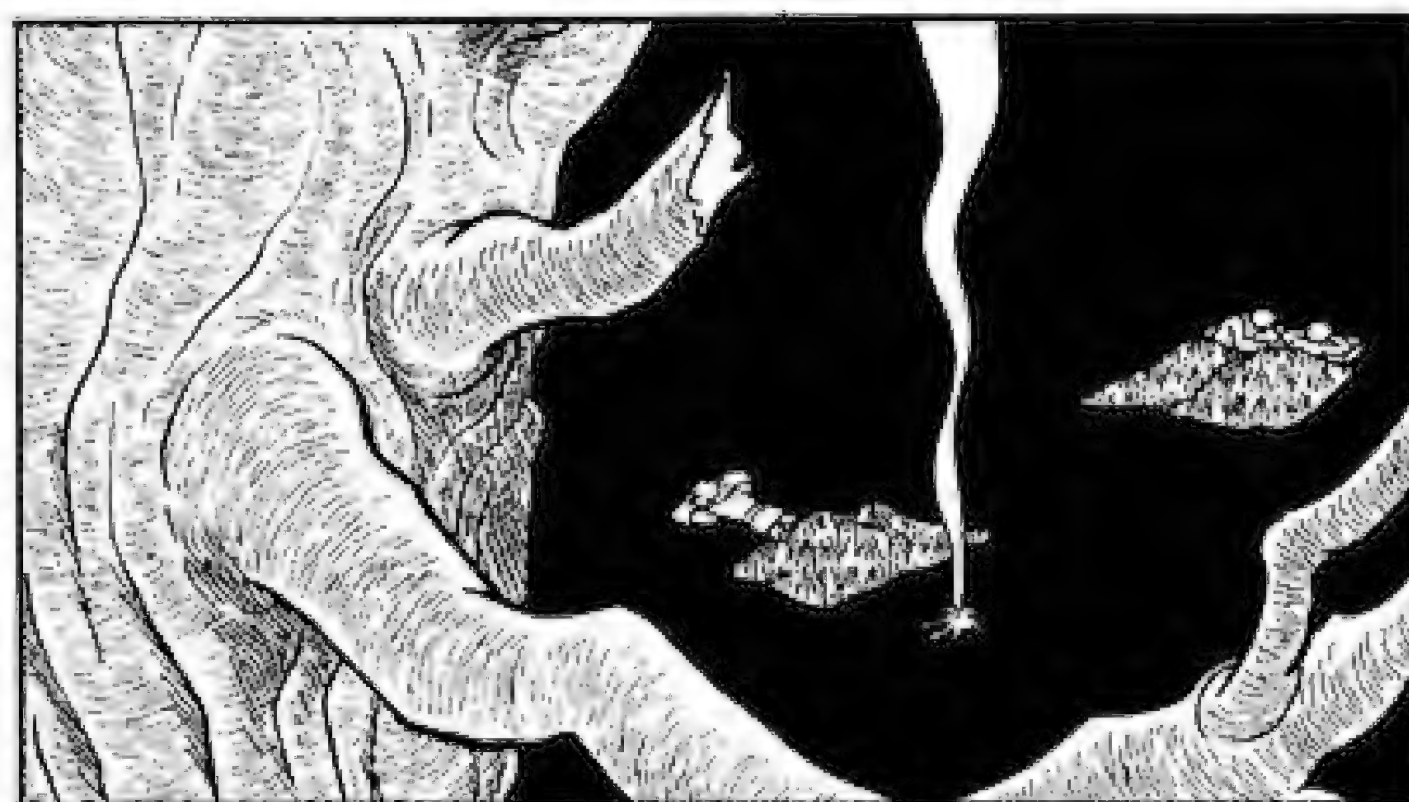
Hee Hee

Ho Ho

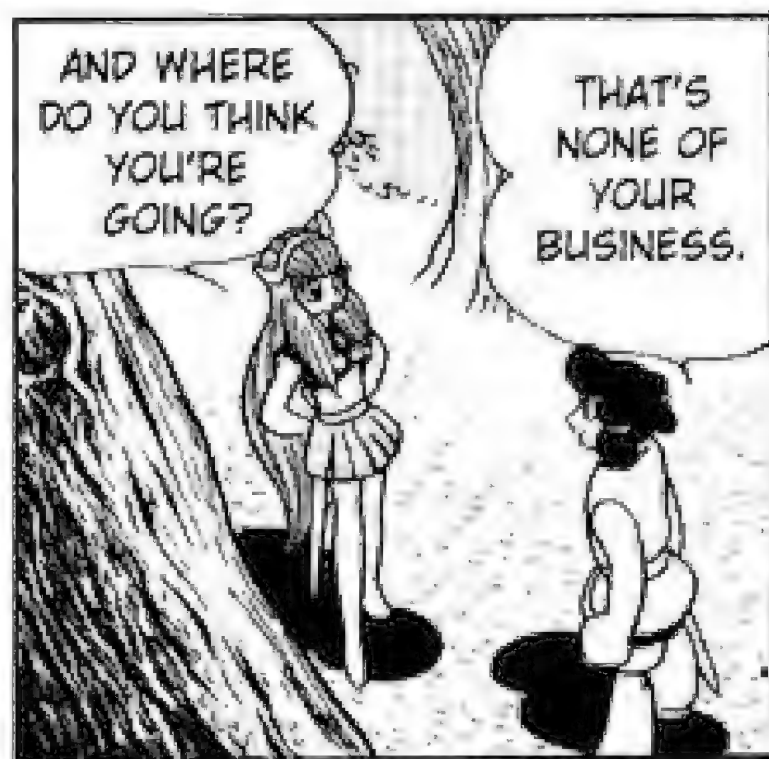
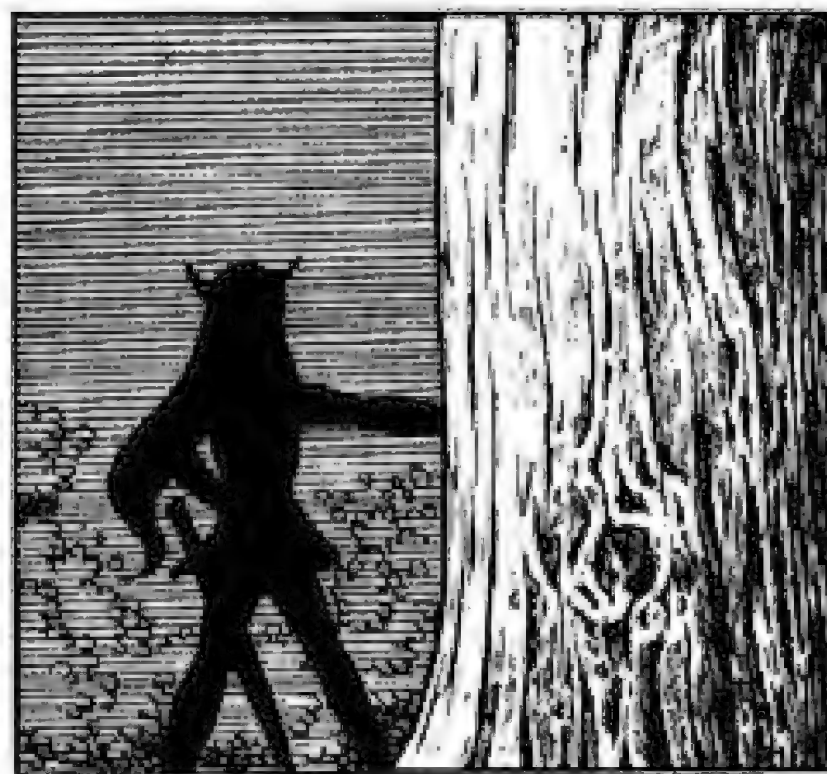
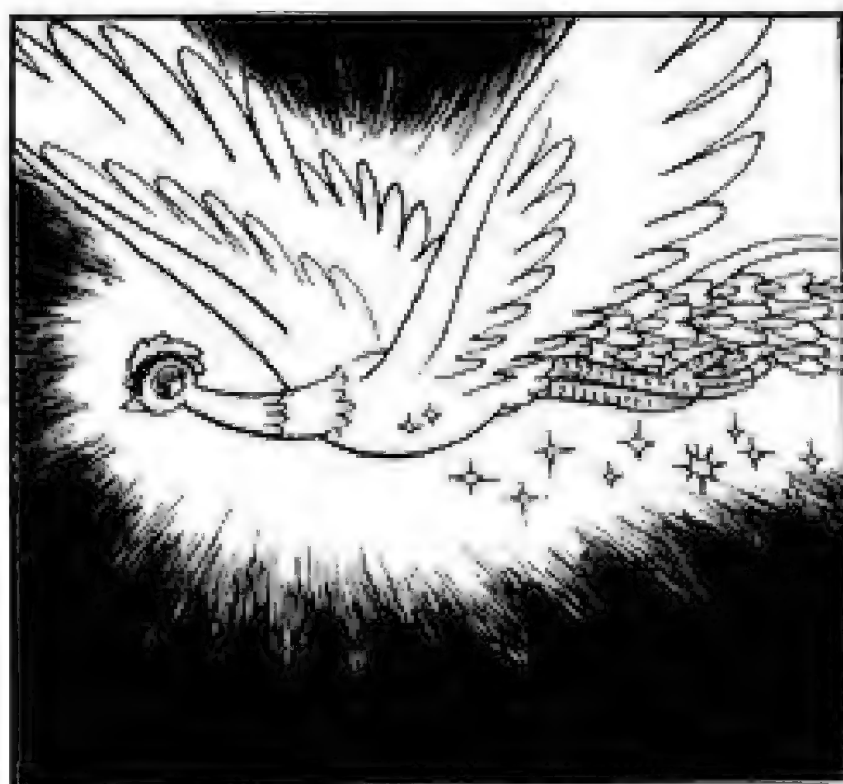




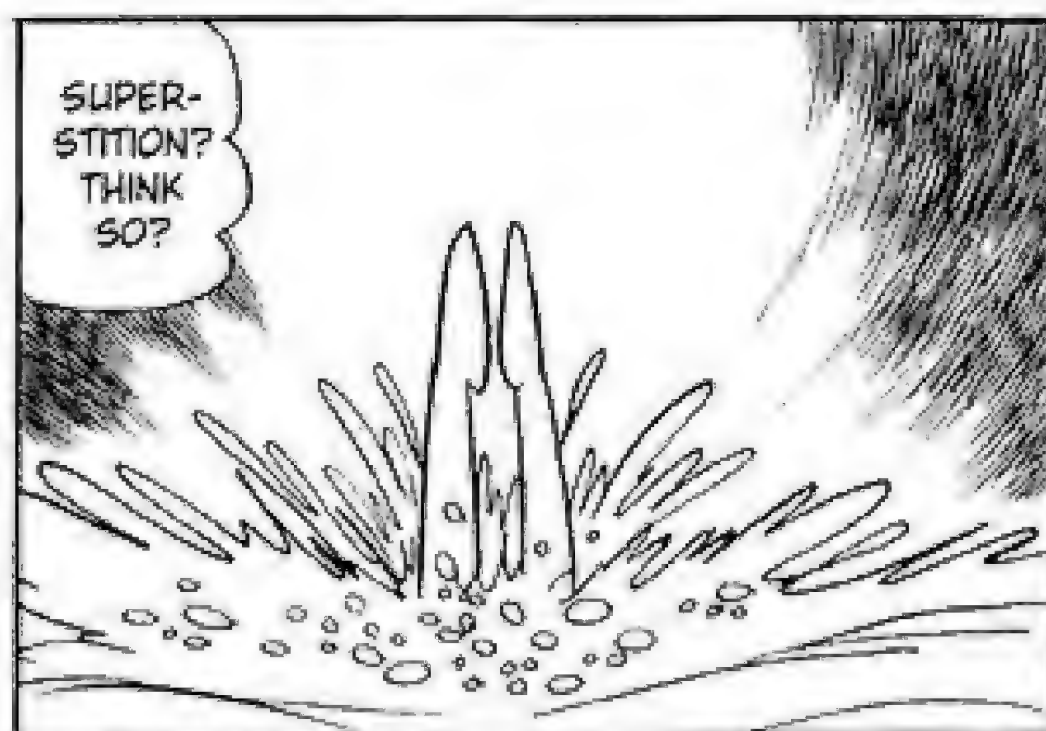


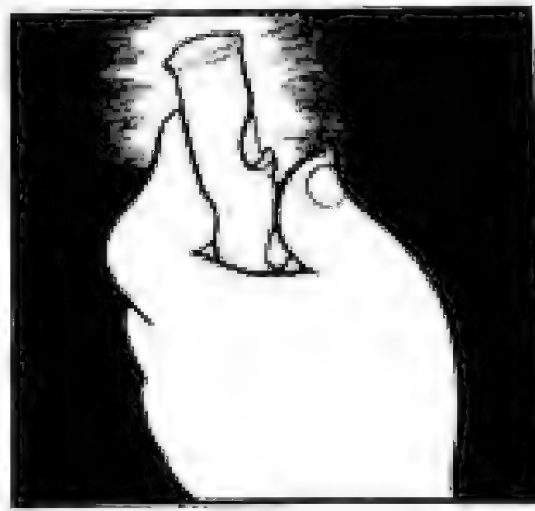
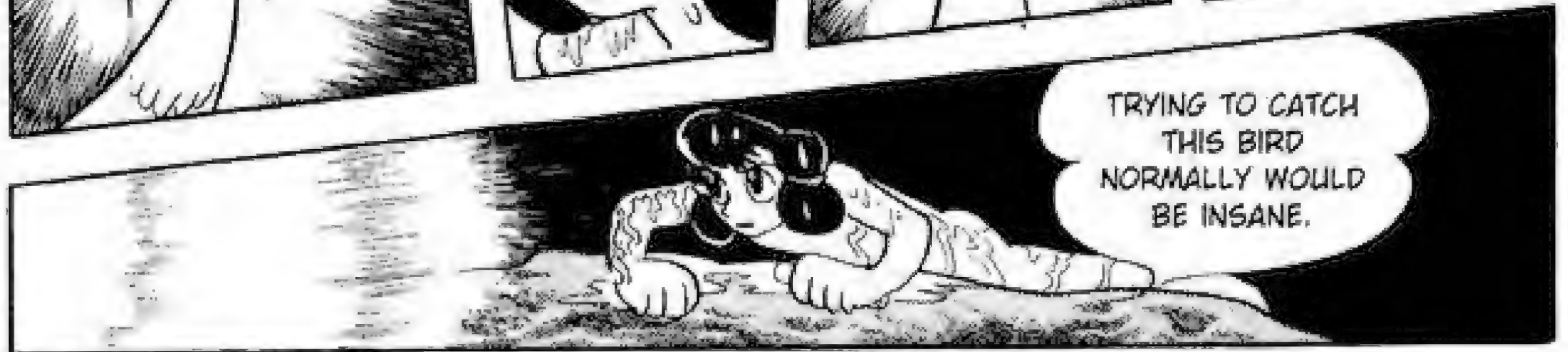
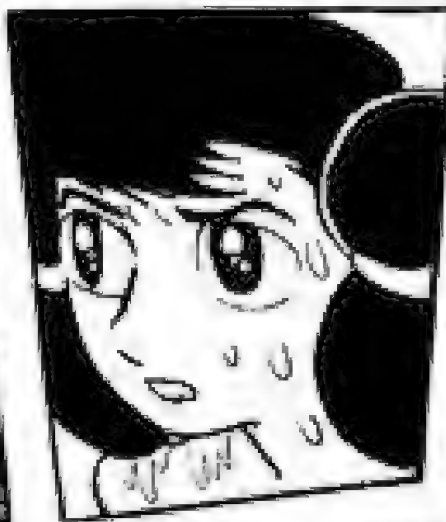


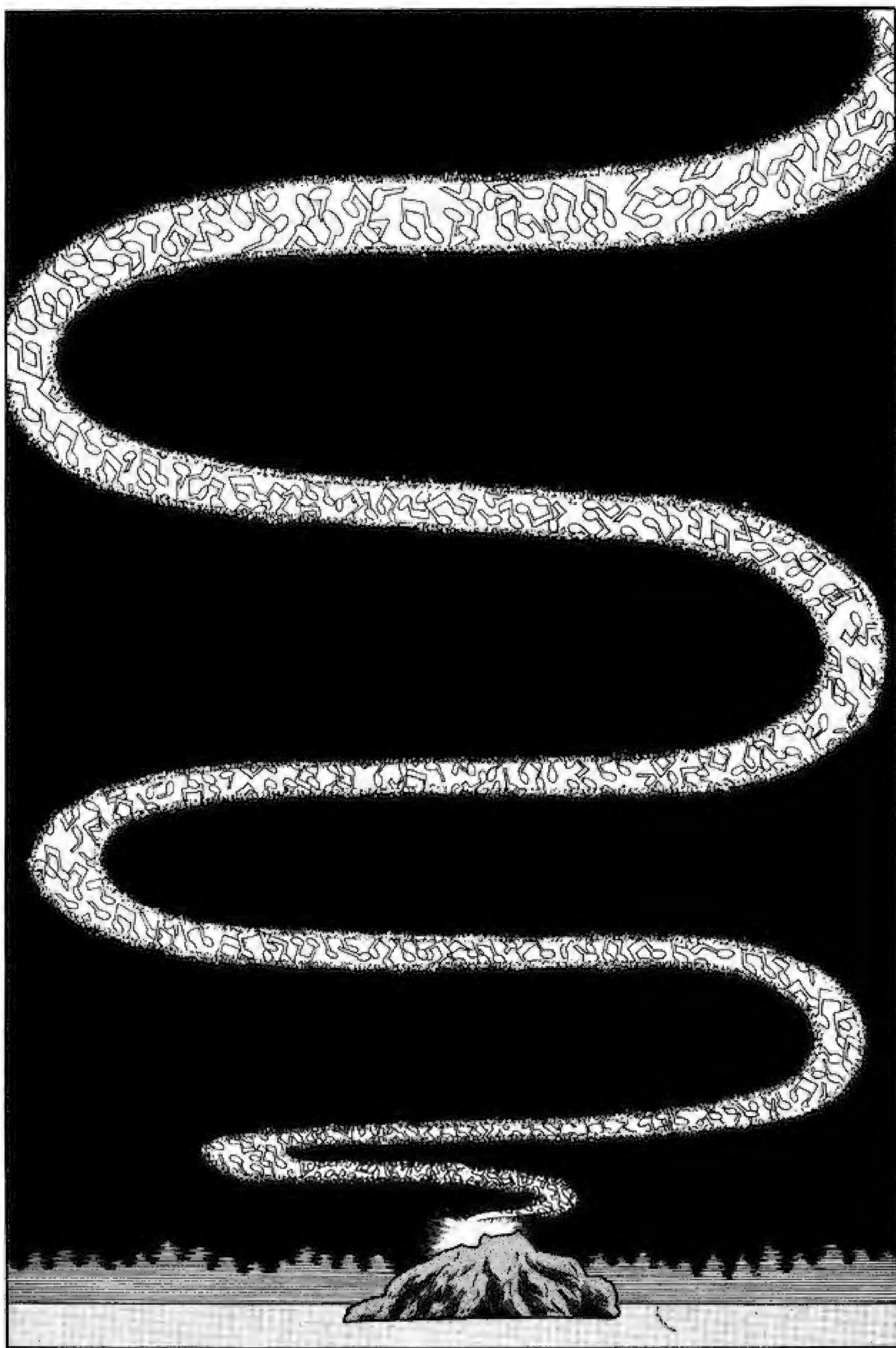


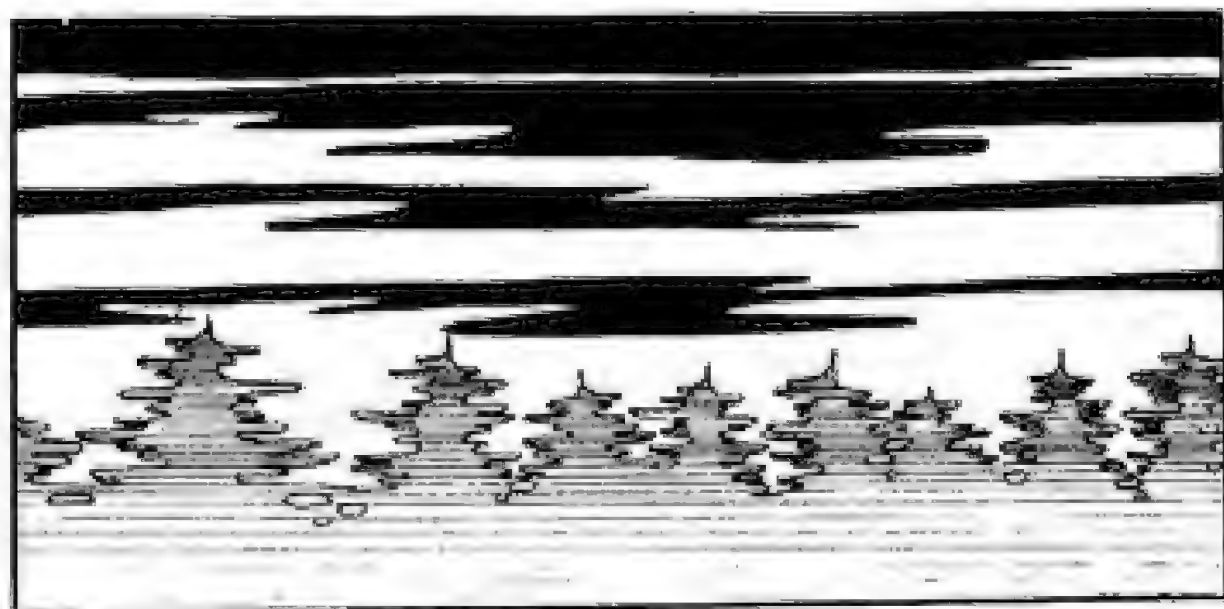




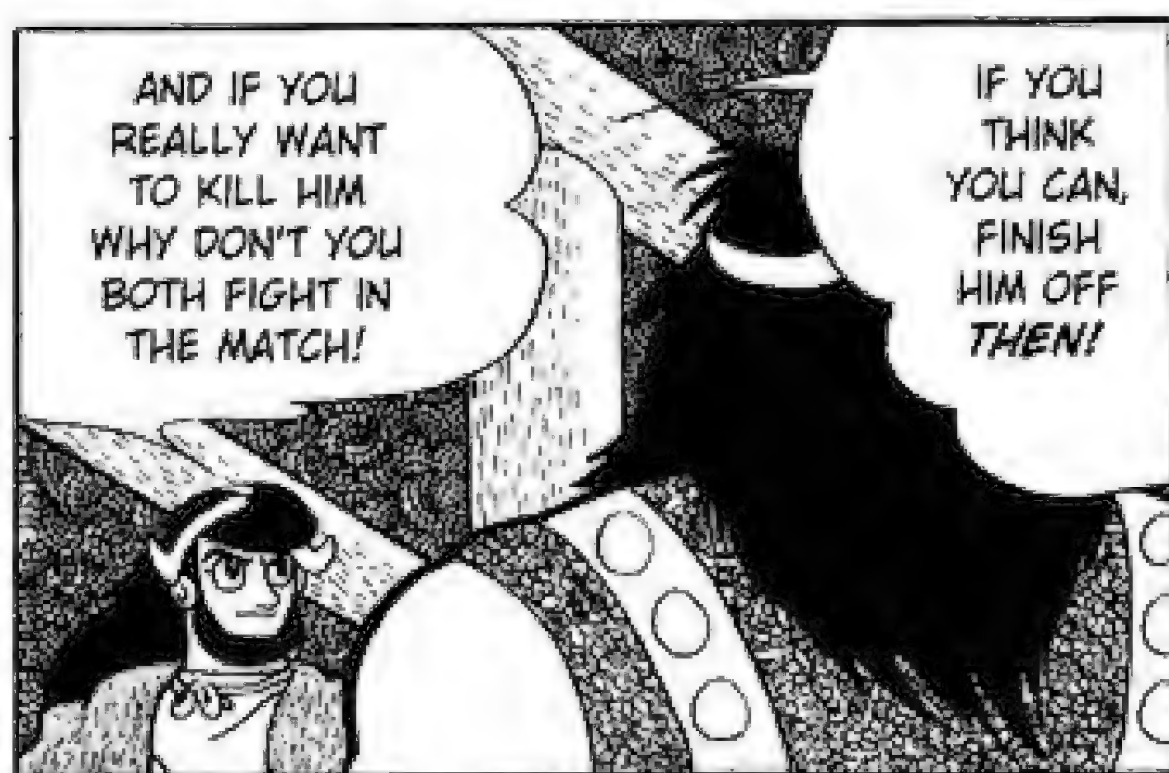
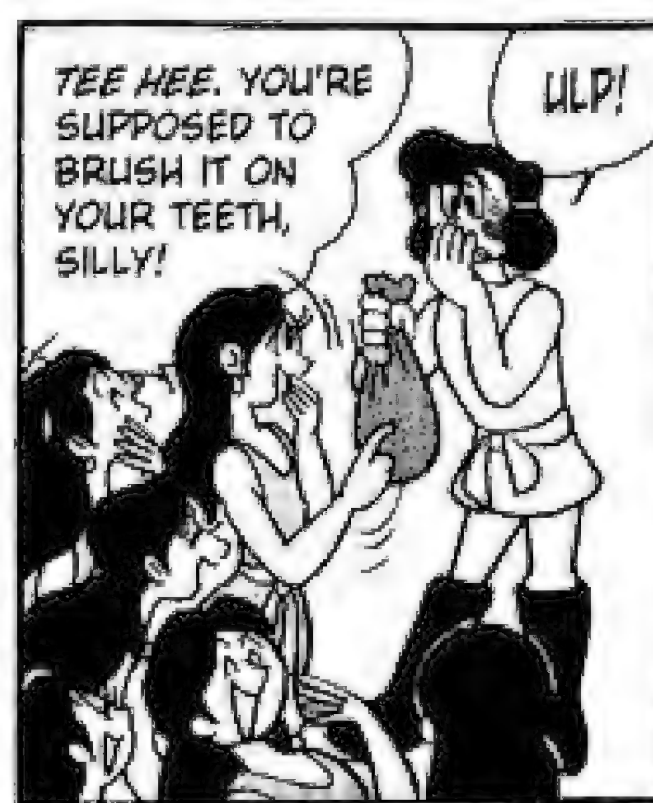


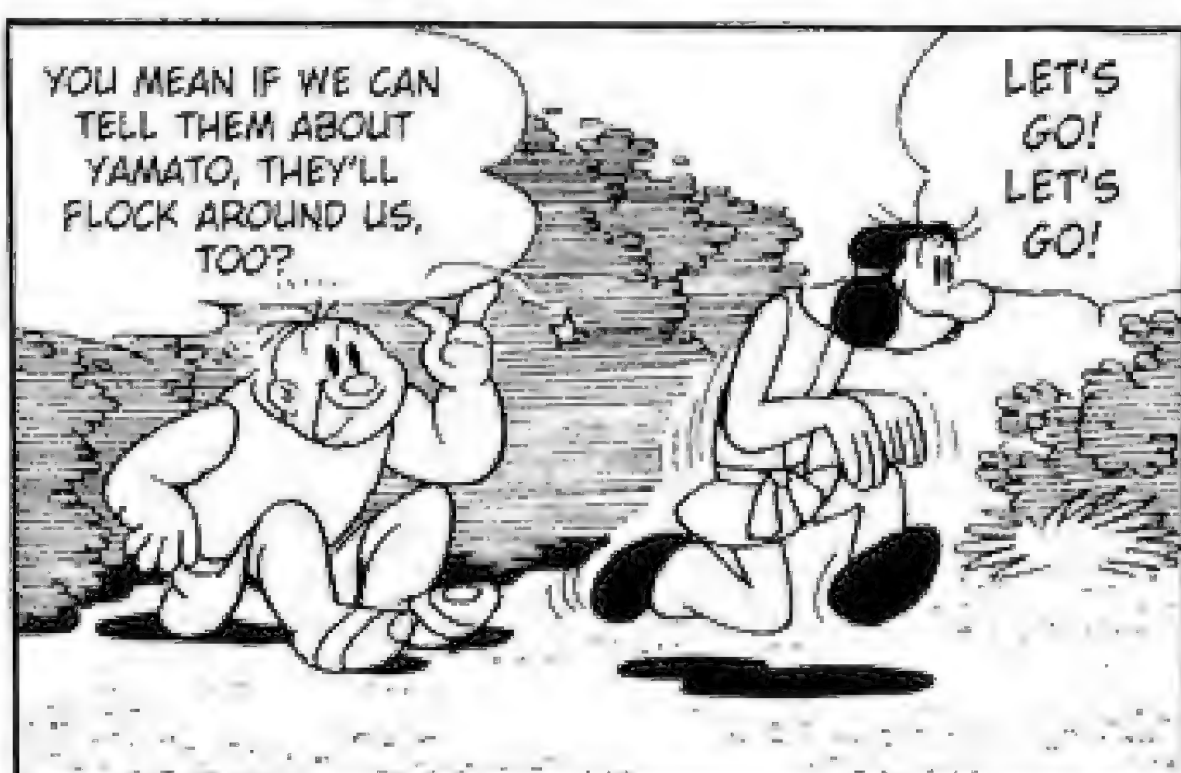
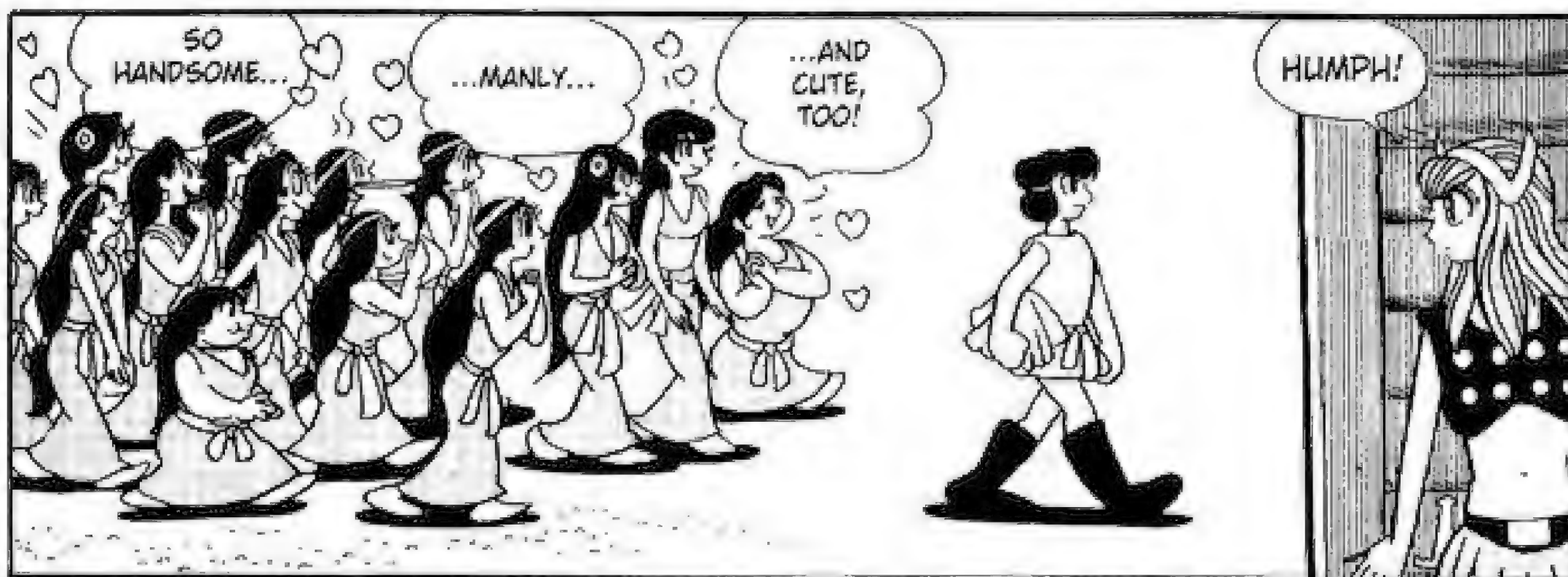


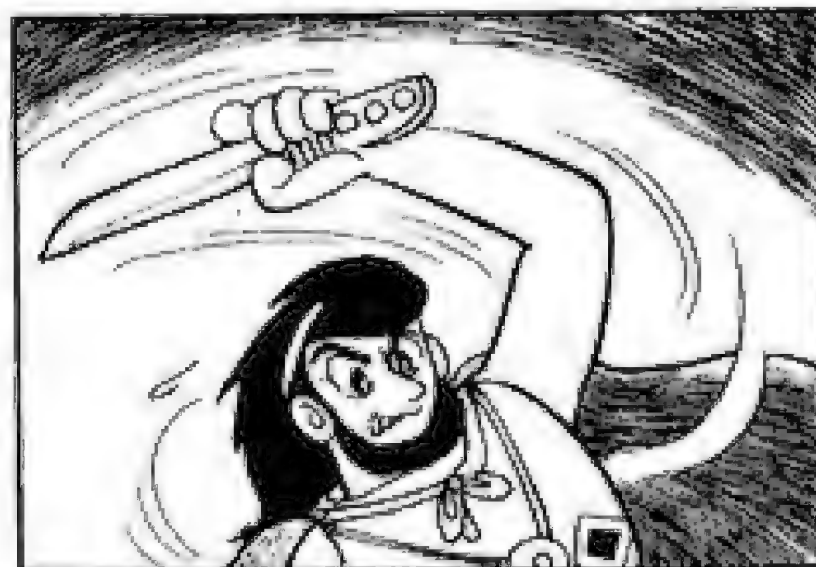


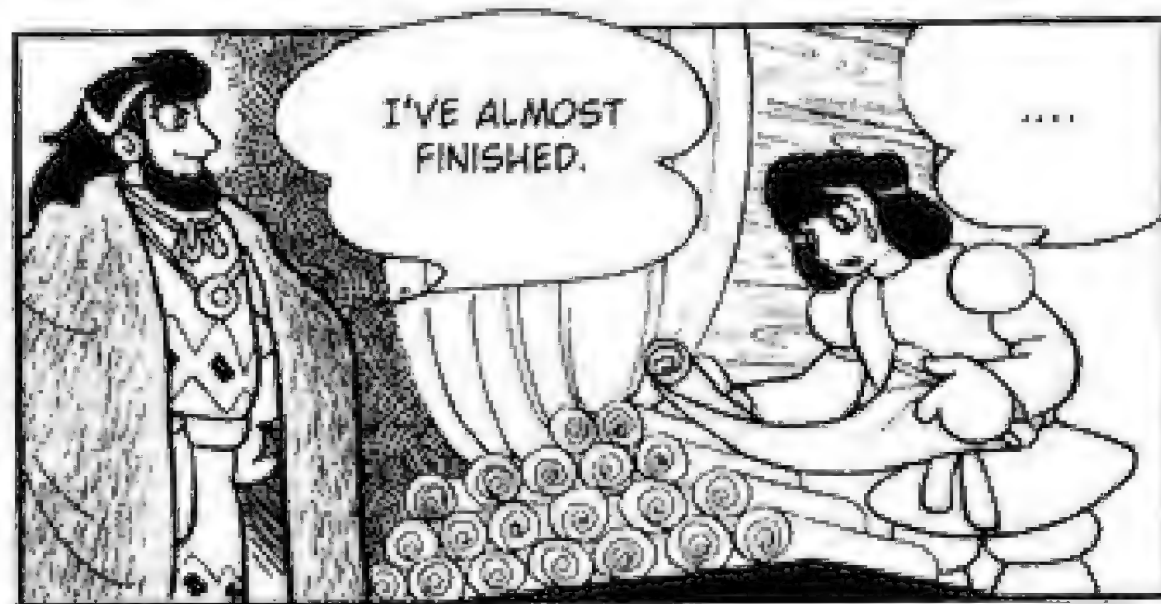
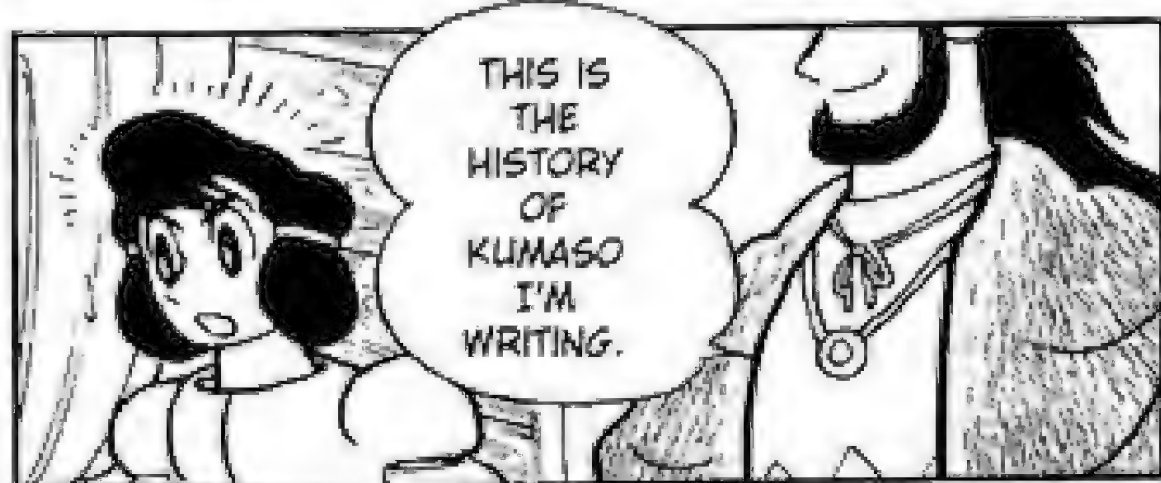
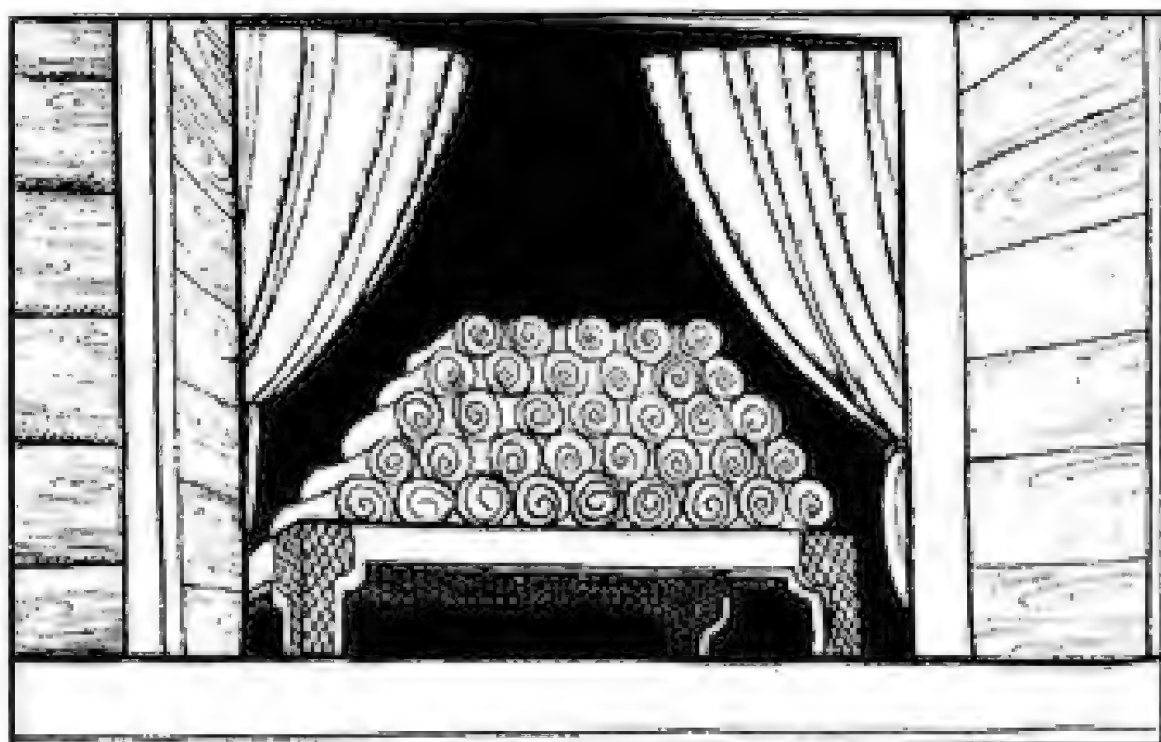
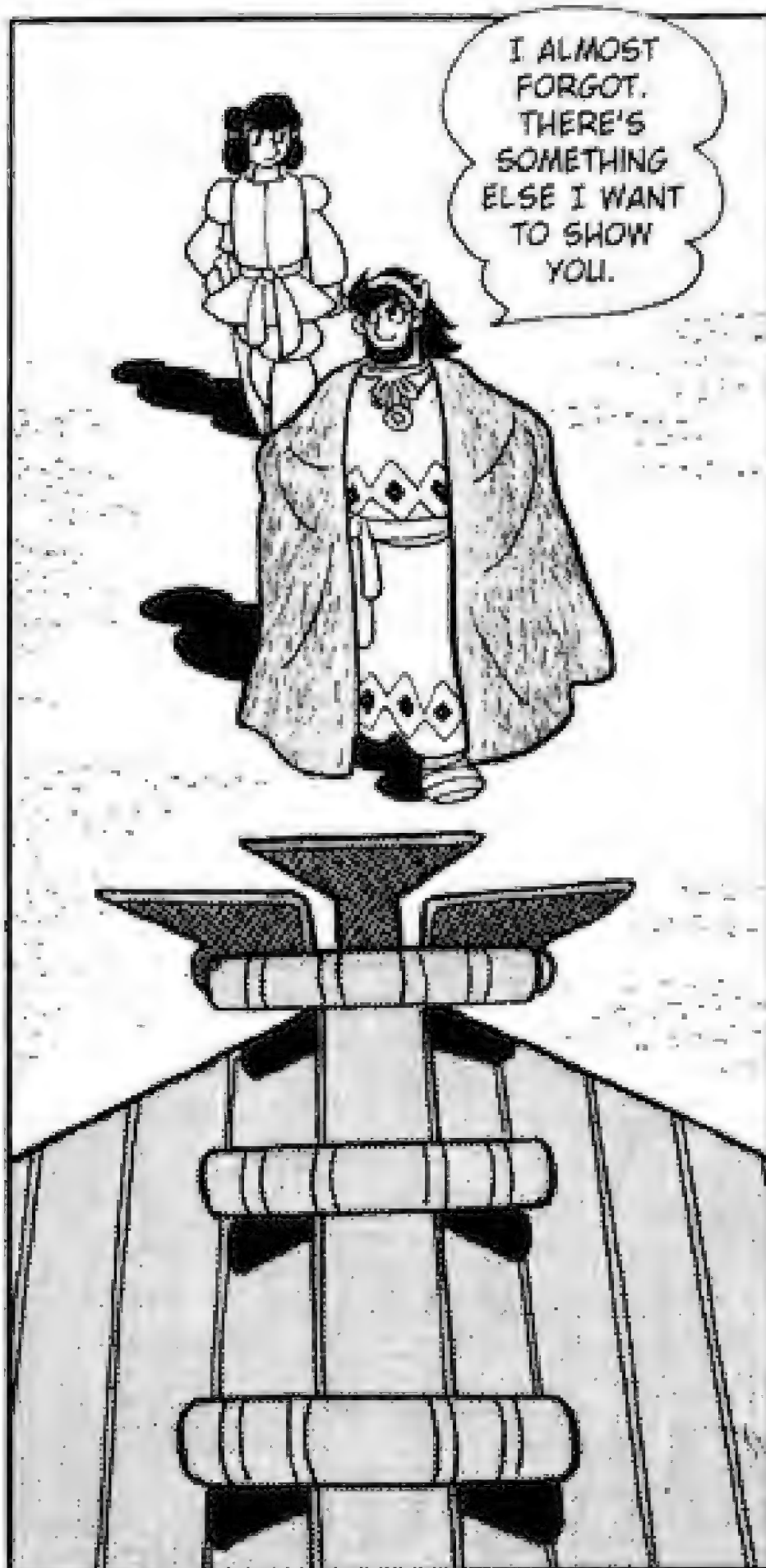
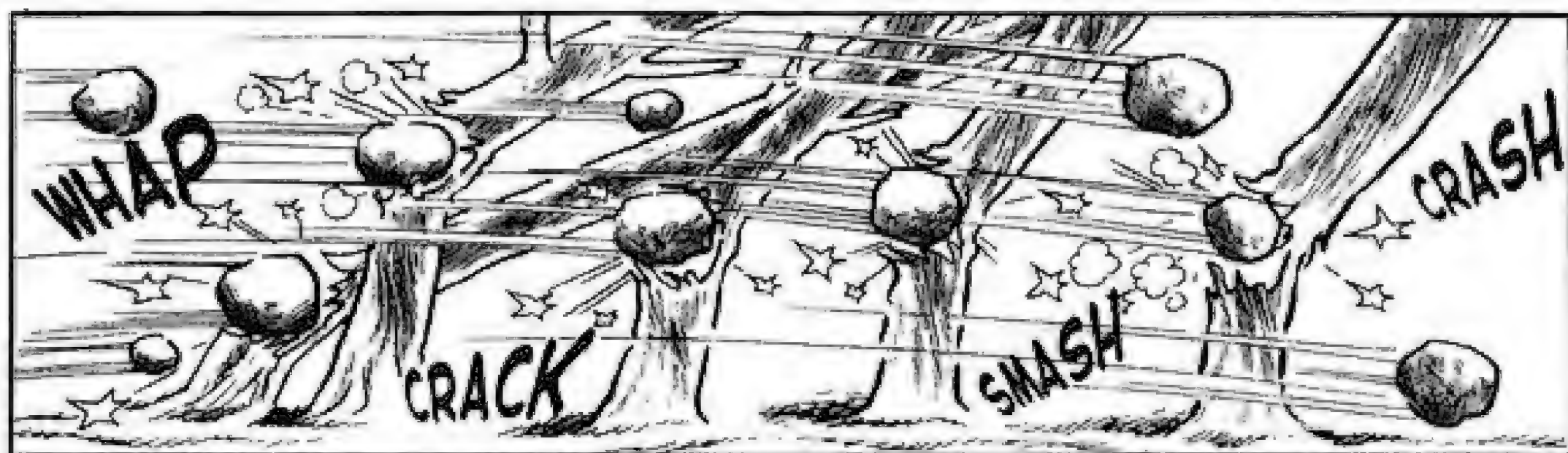


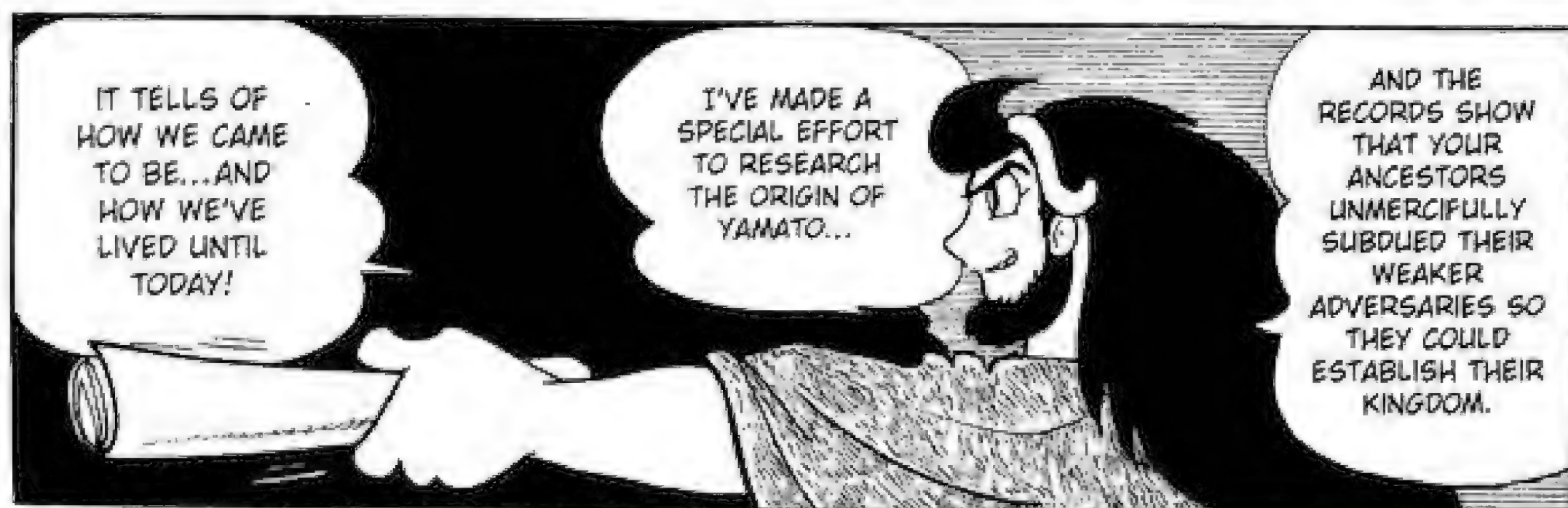
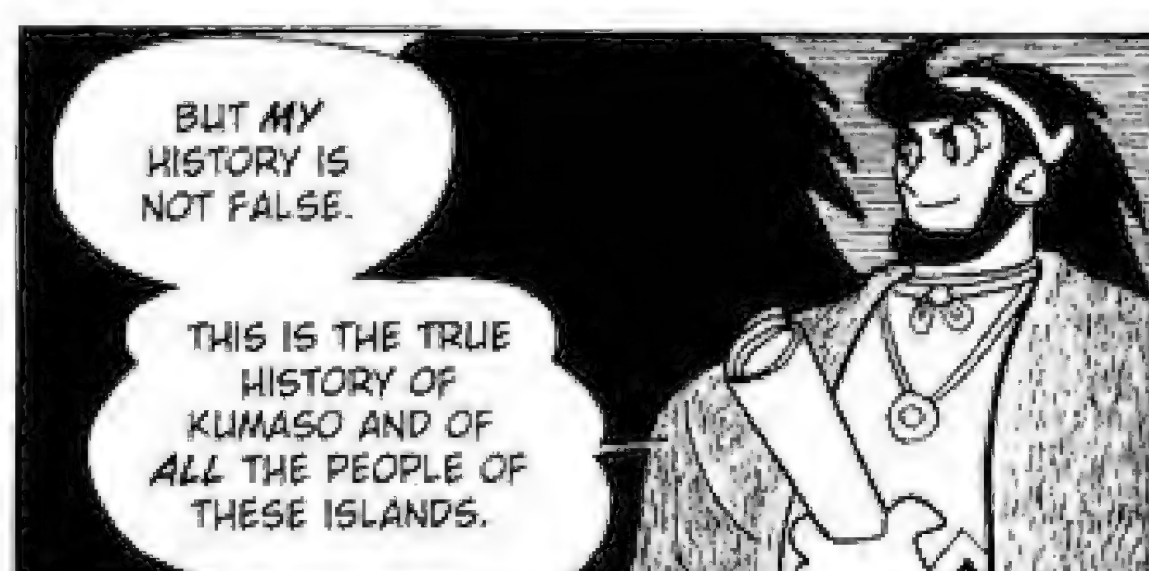


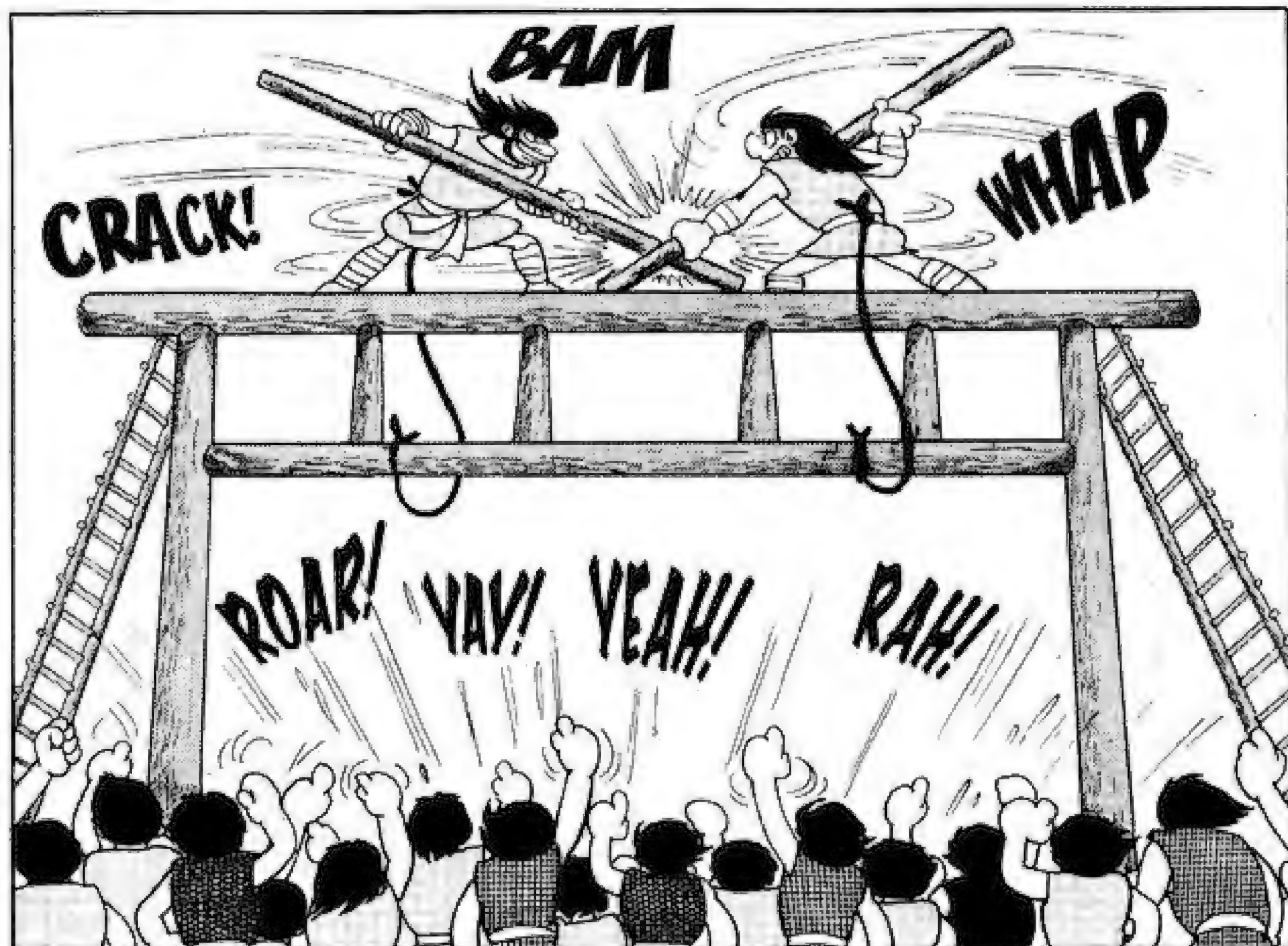
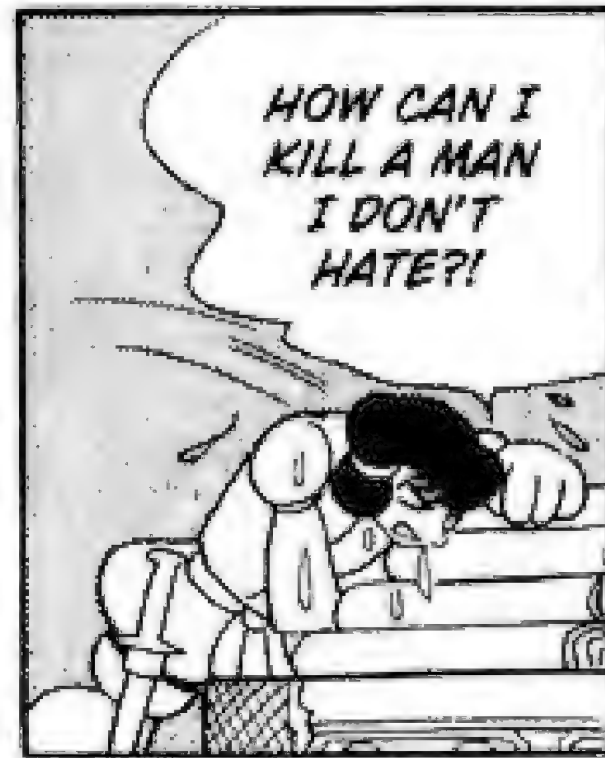


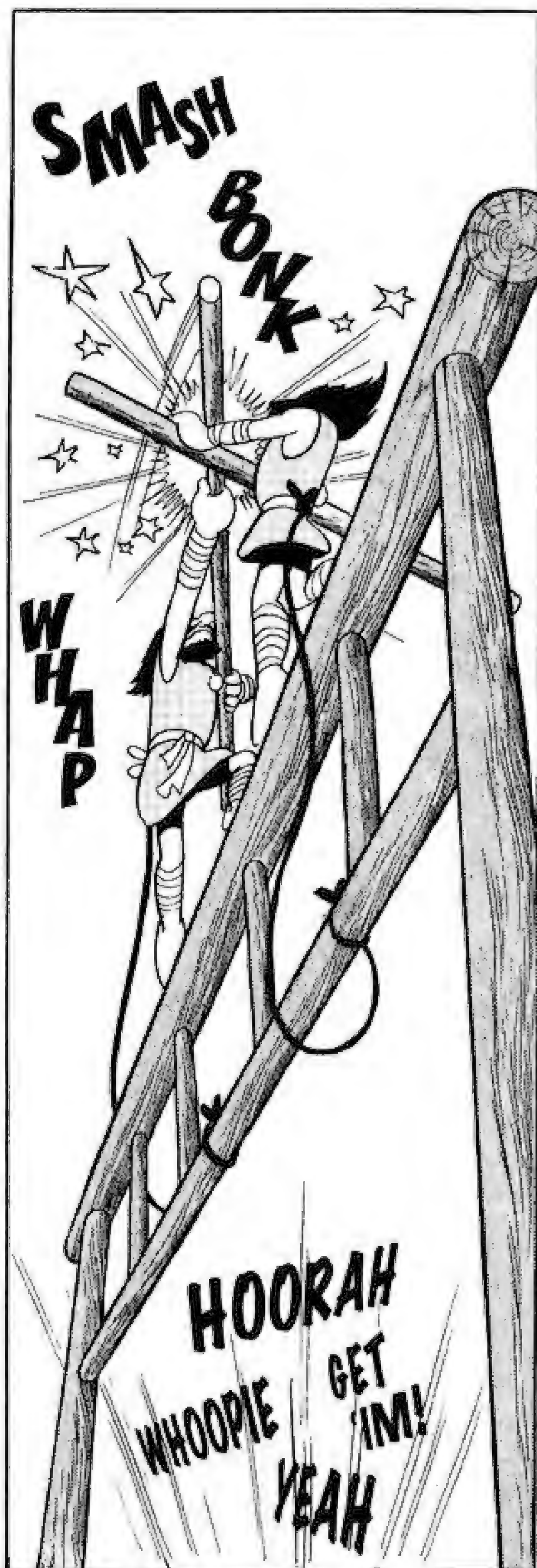


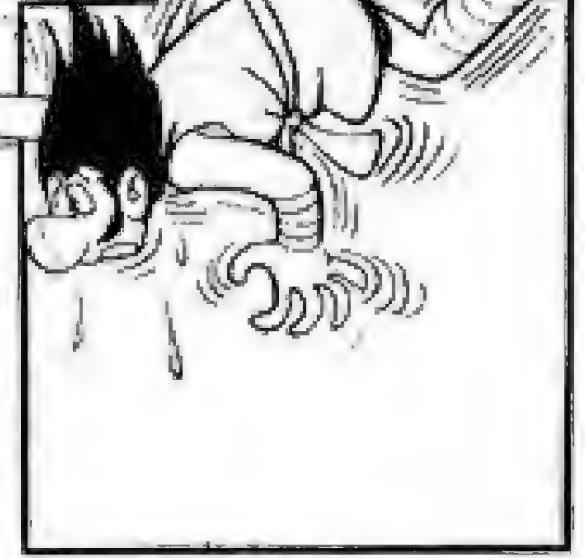
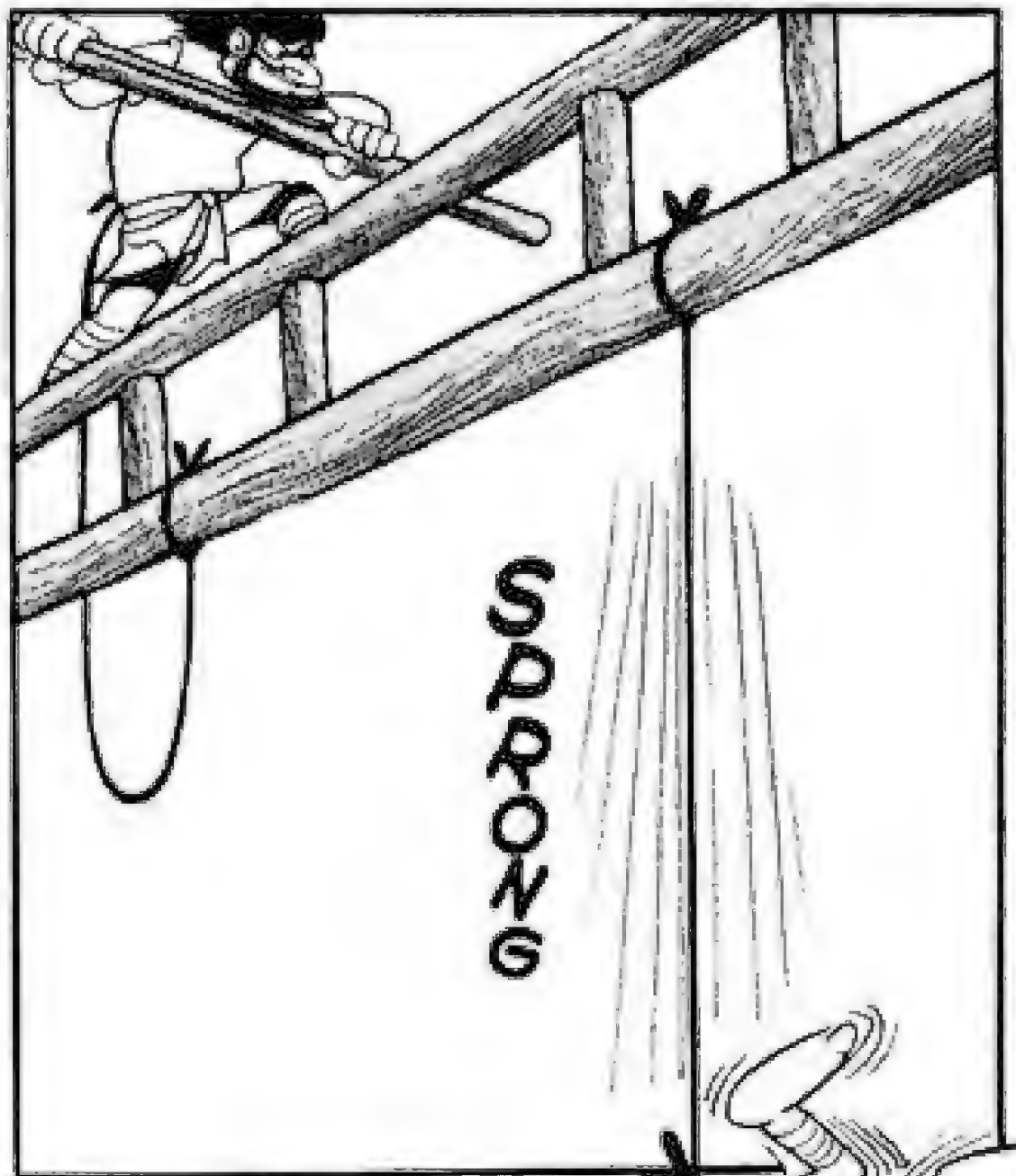
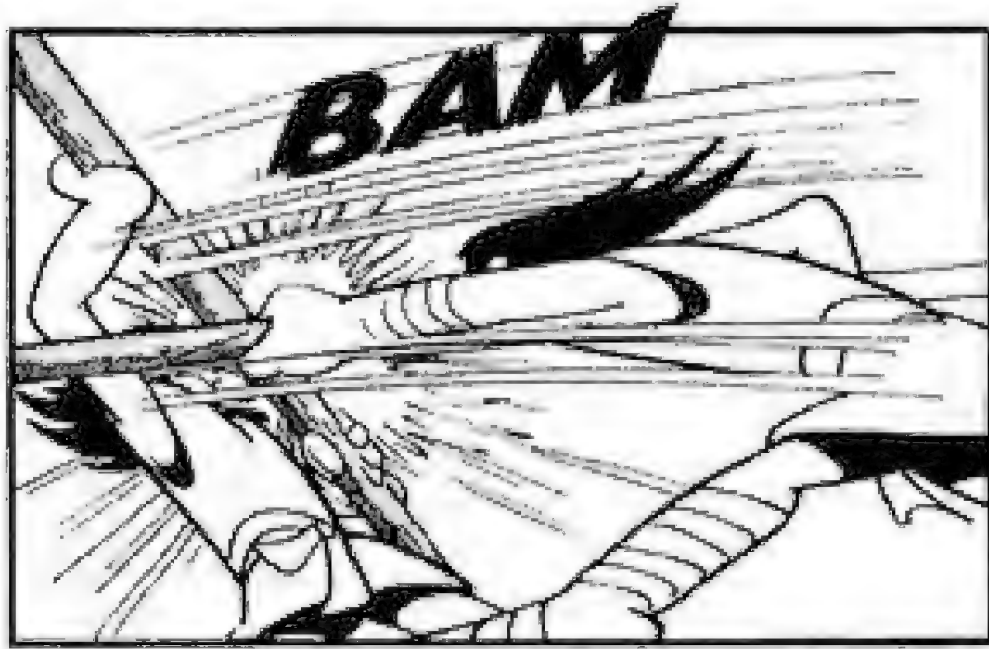


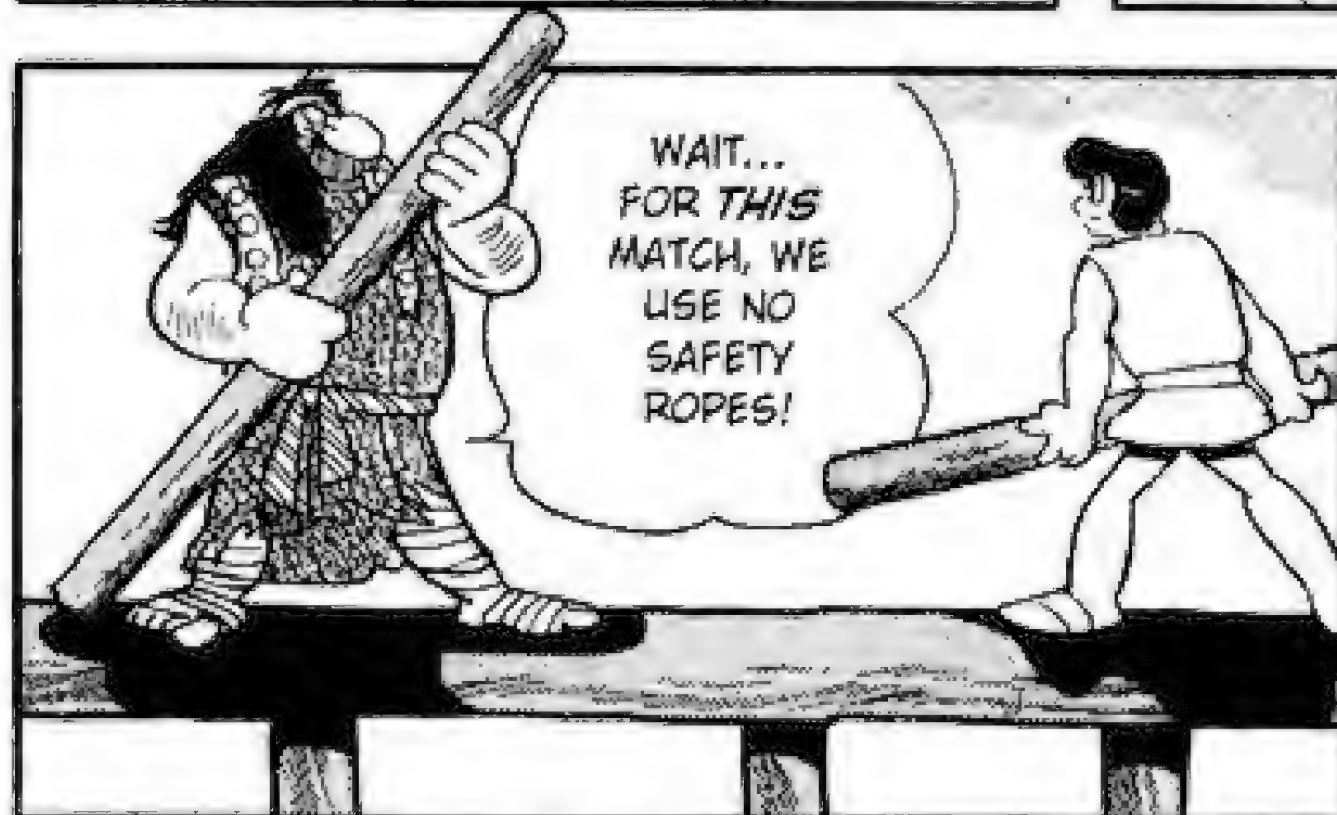


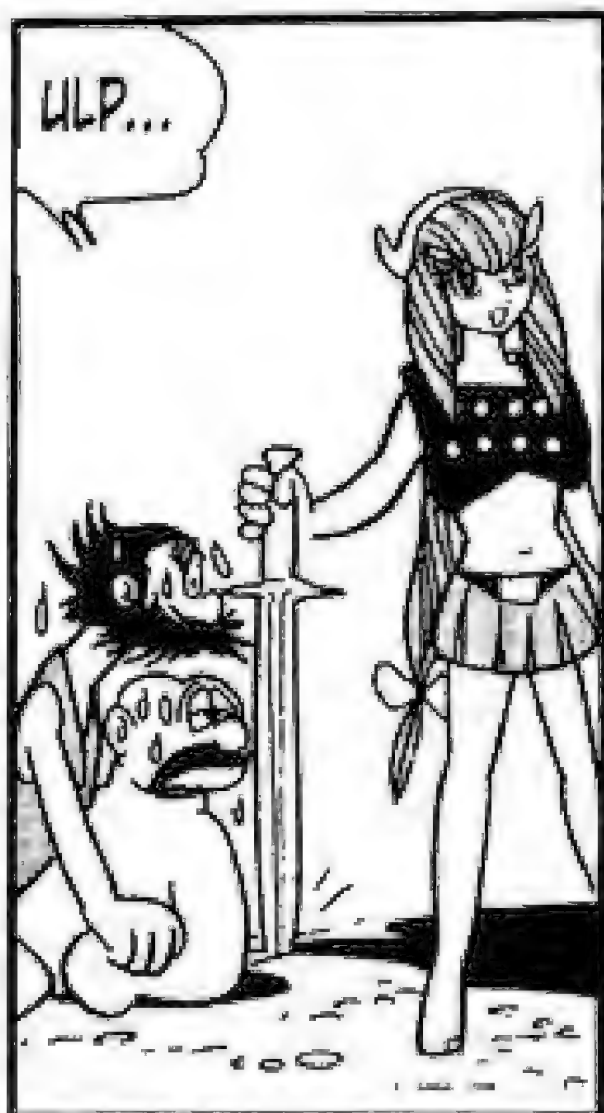
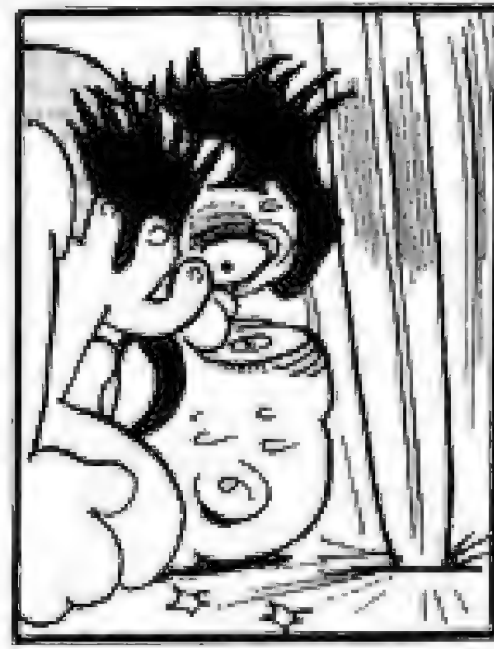
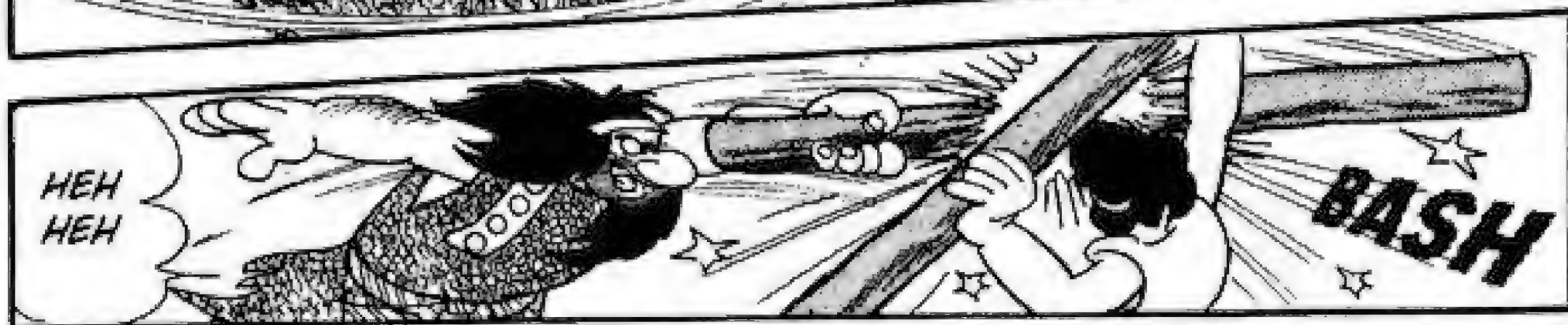
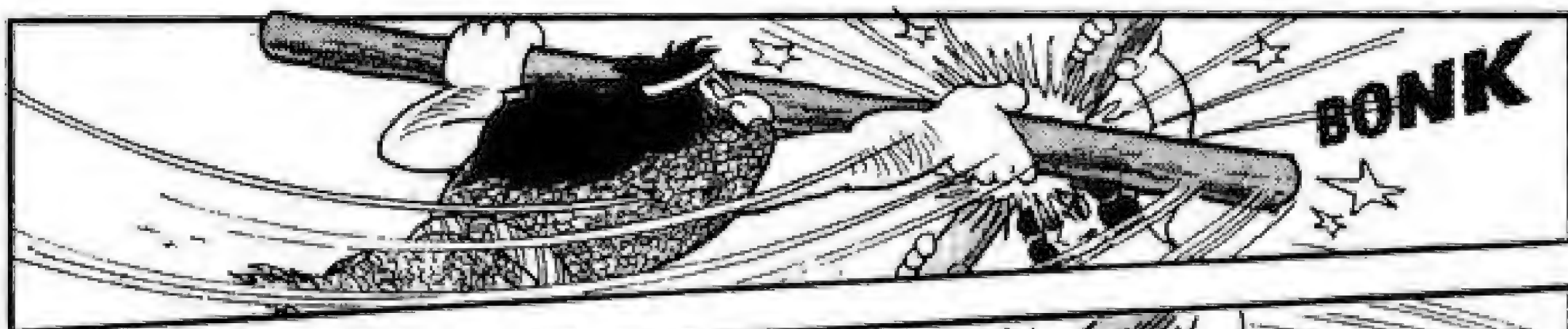




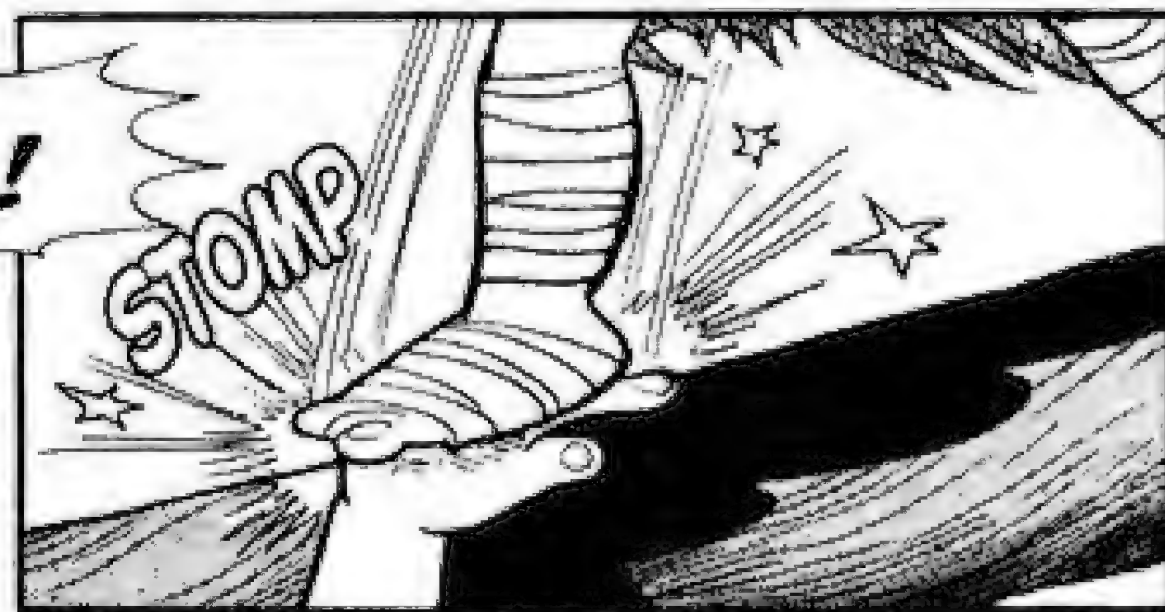
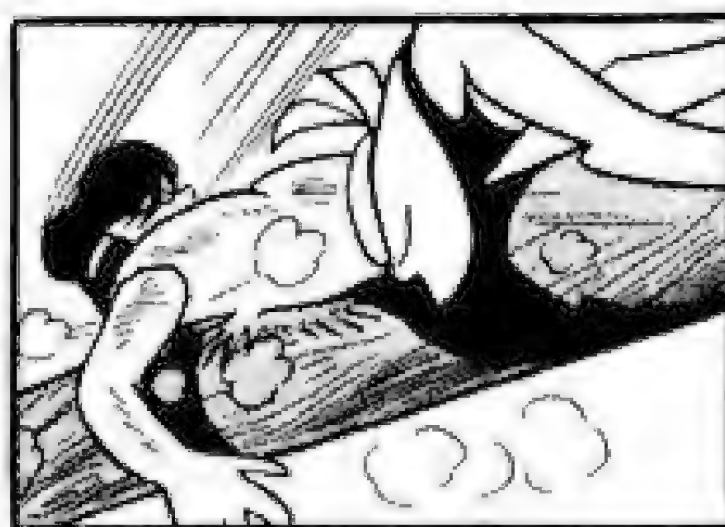
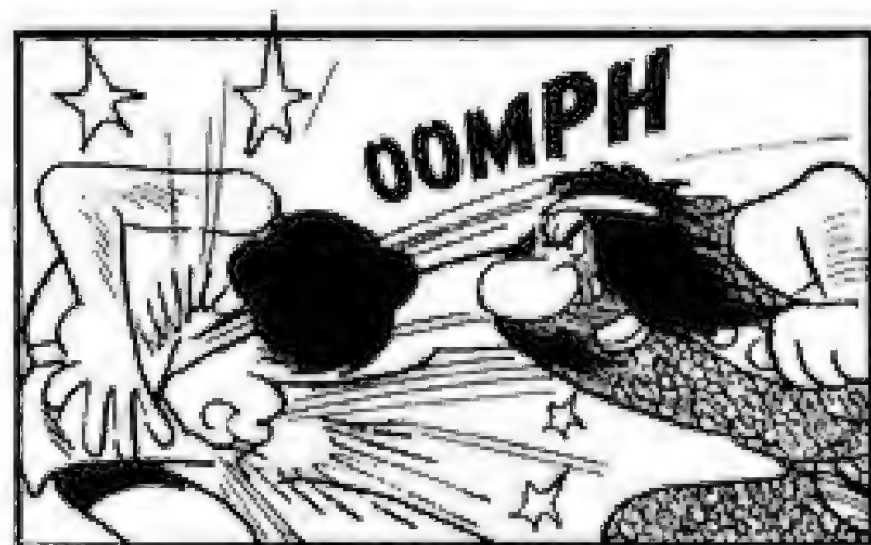
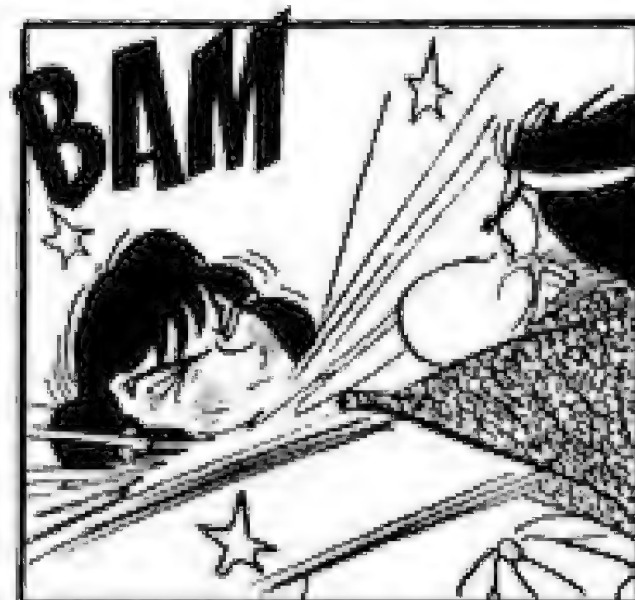
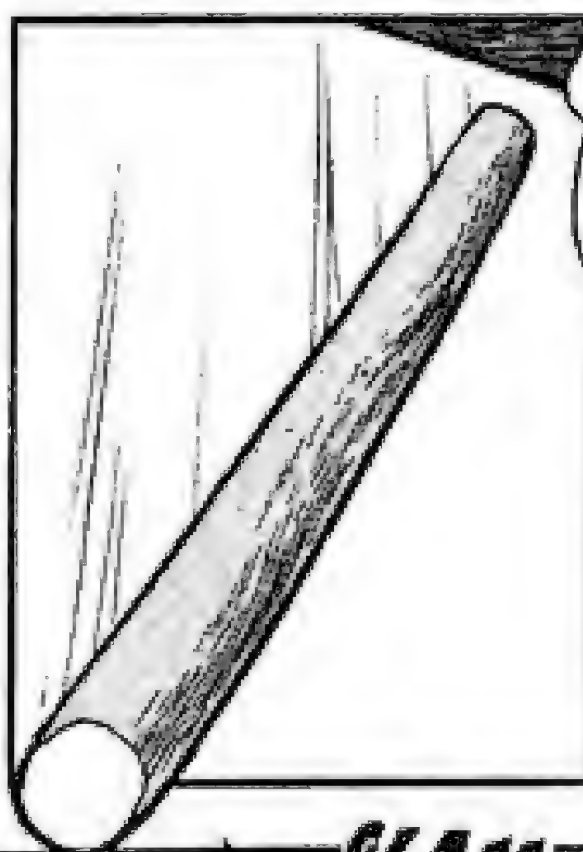


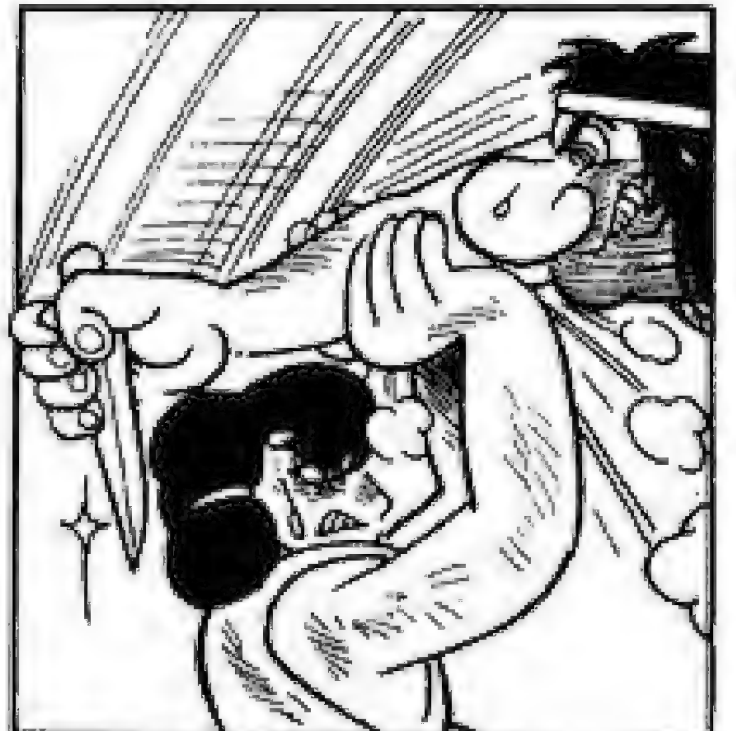
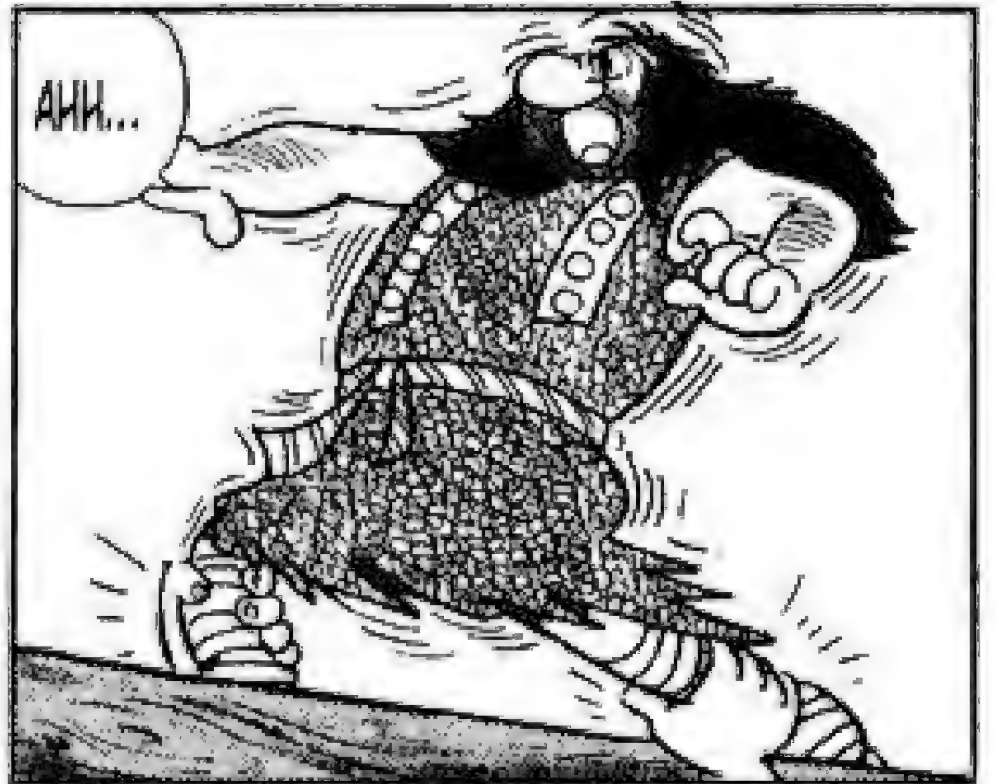


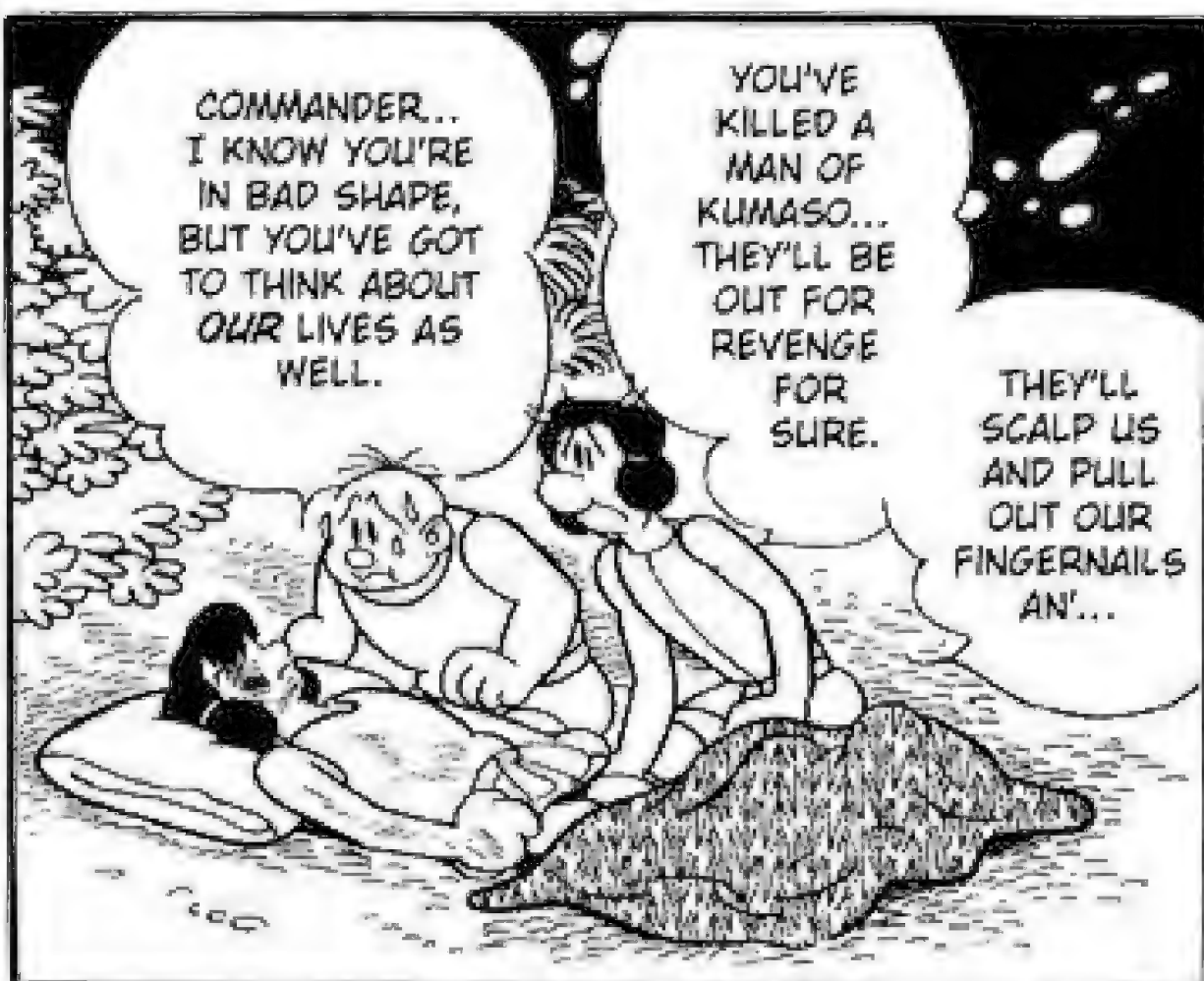
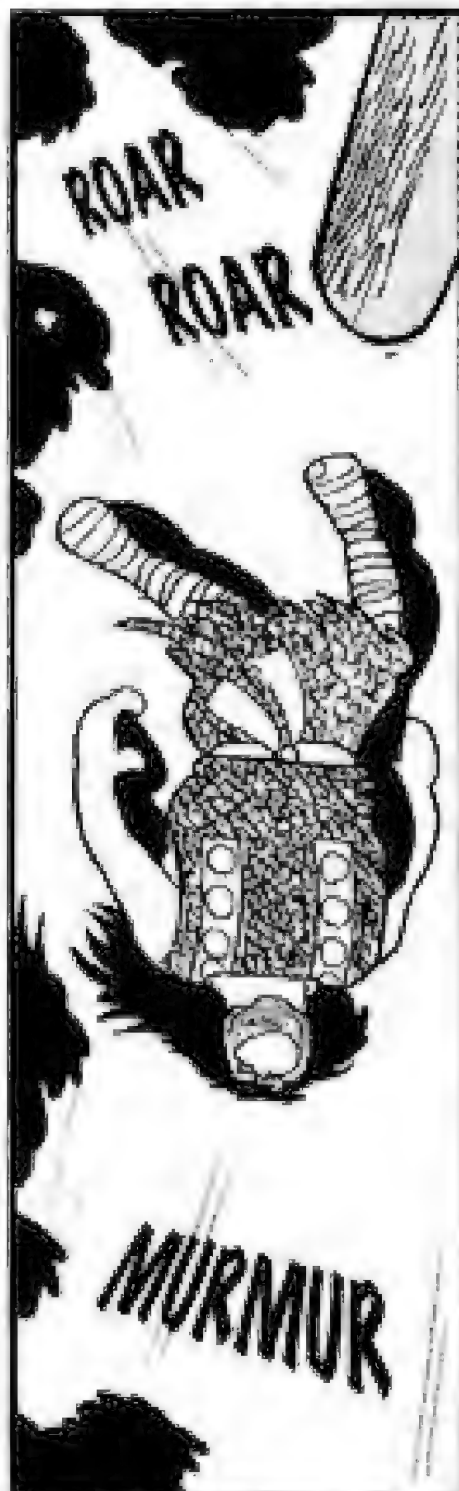
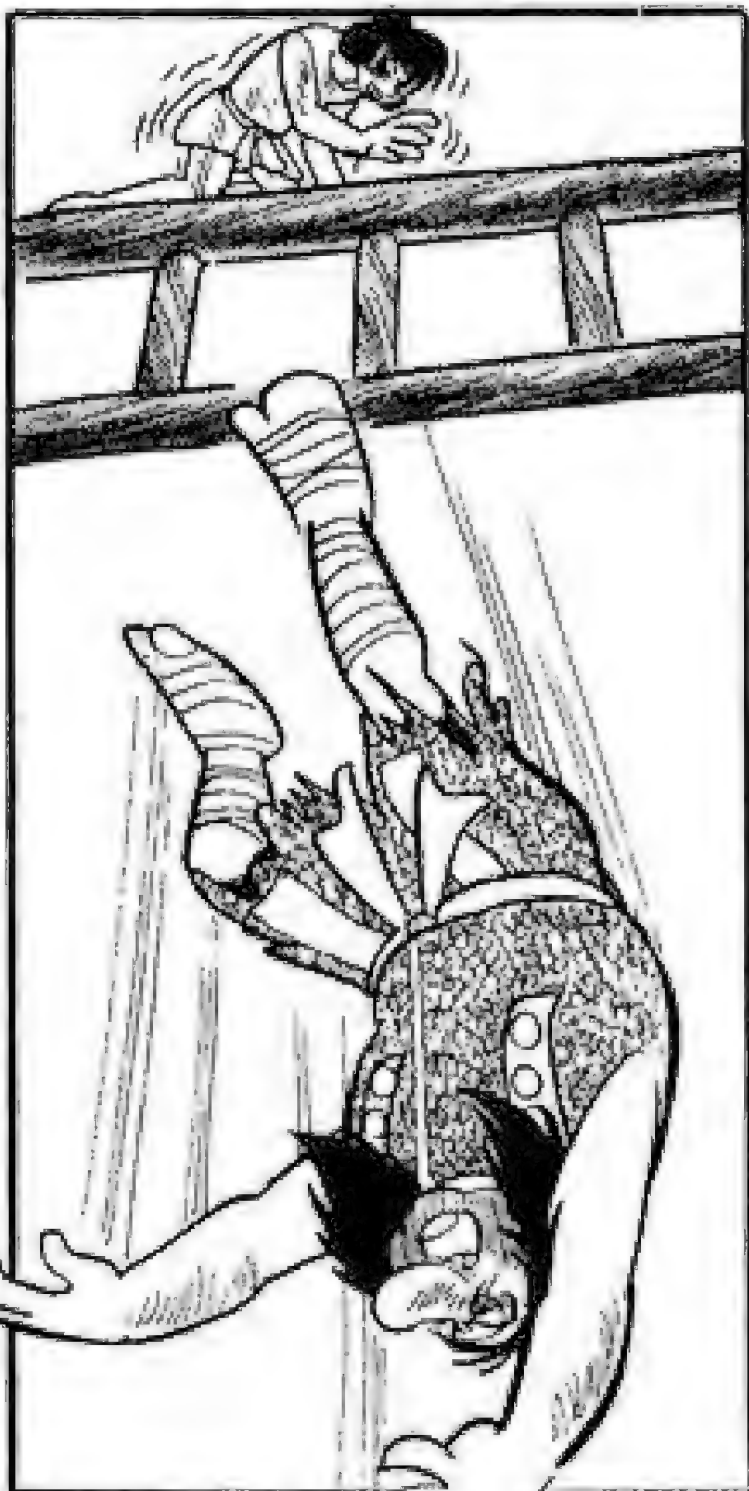
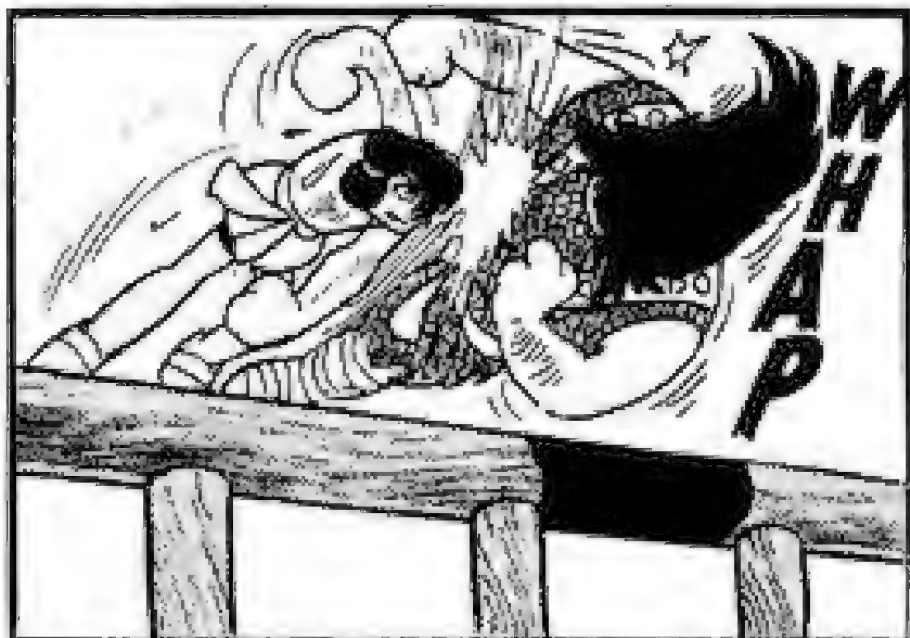
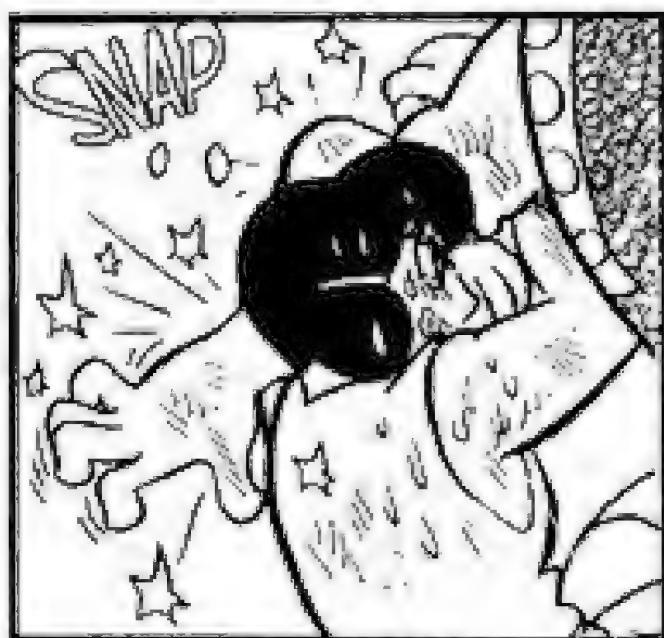




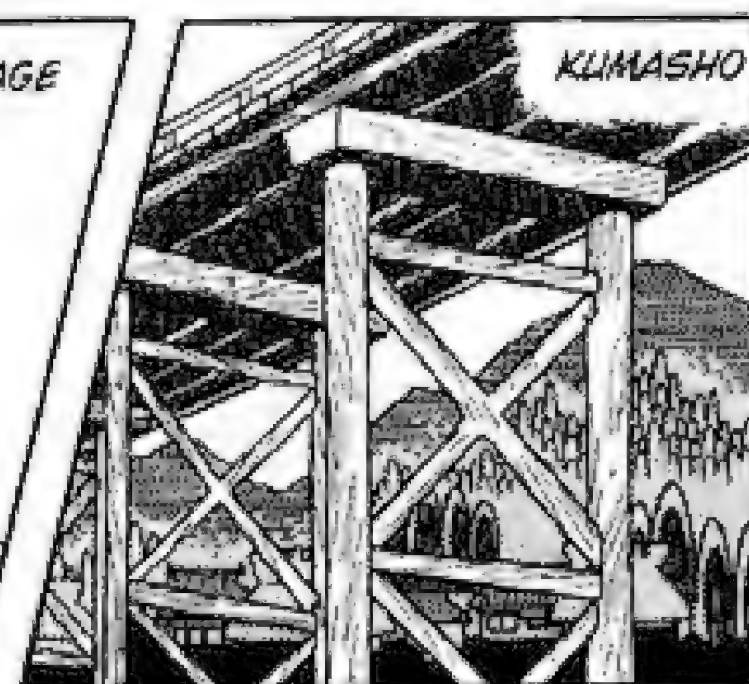
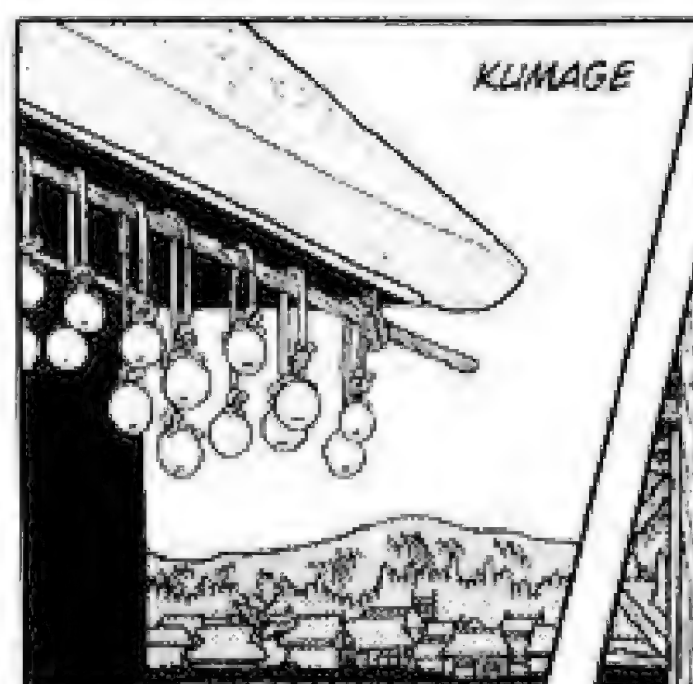
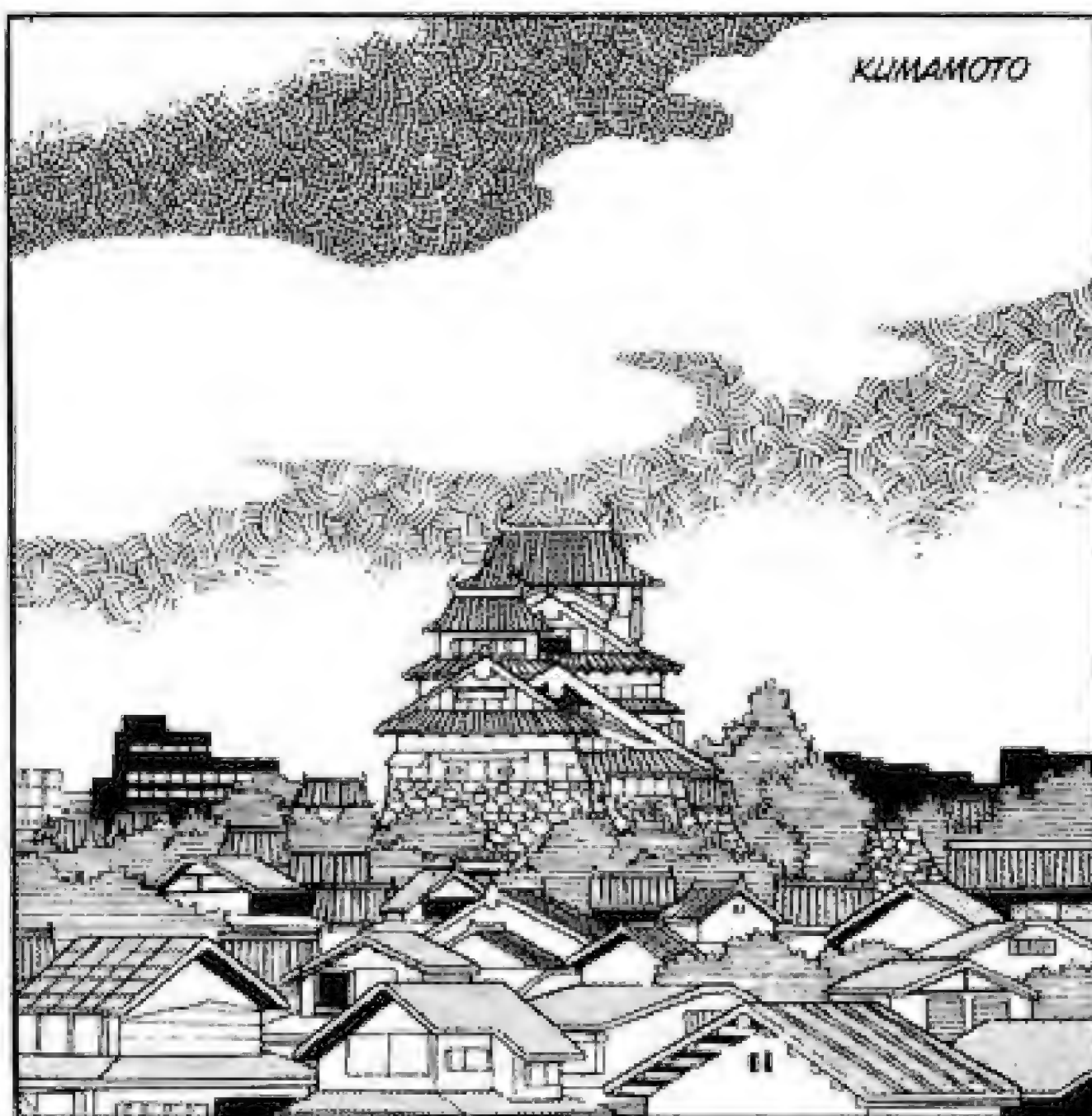
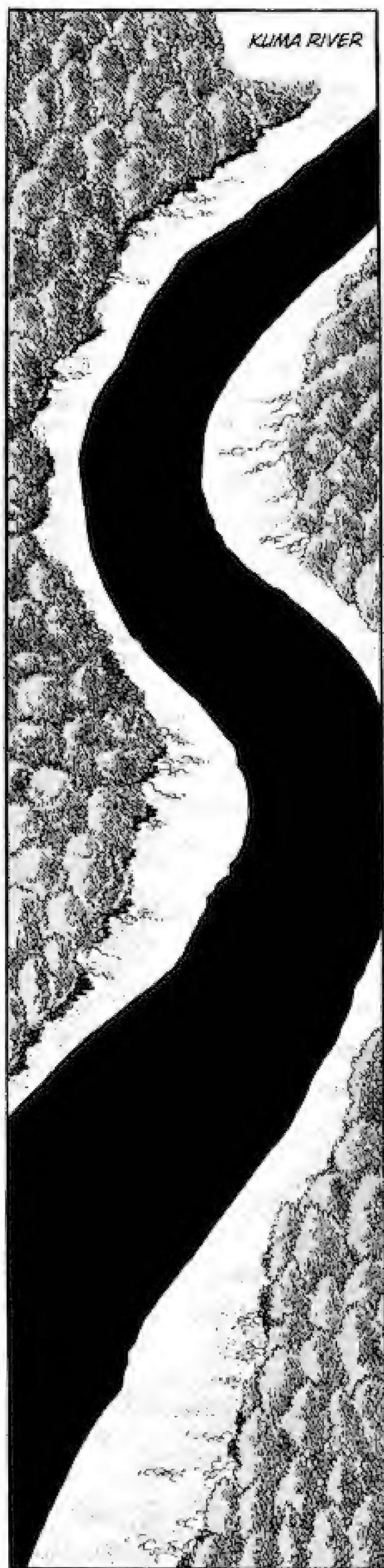










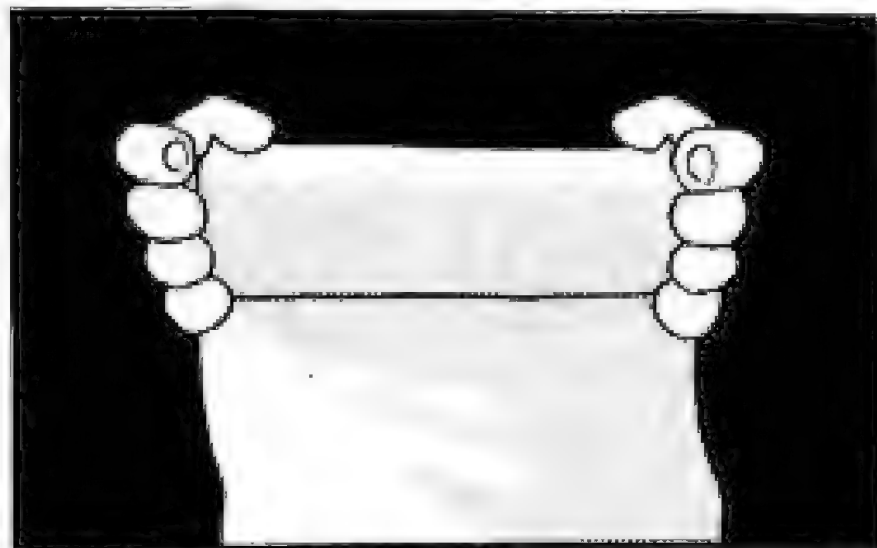
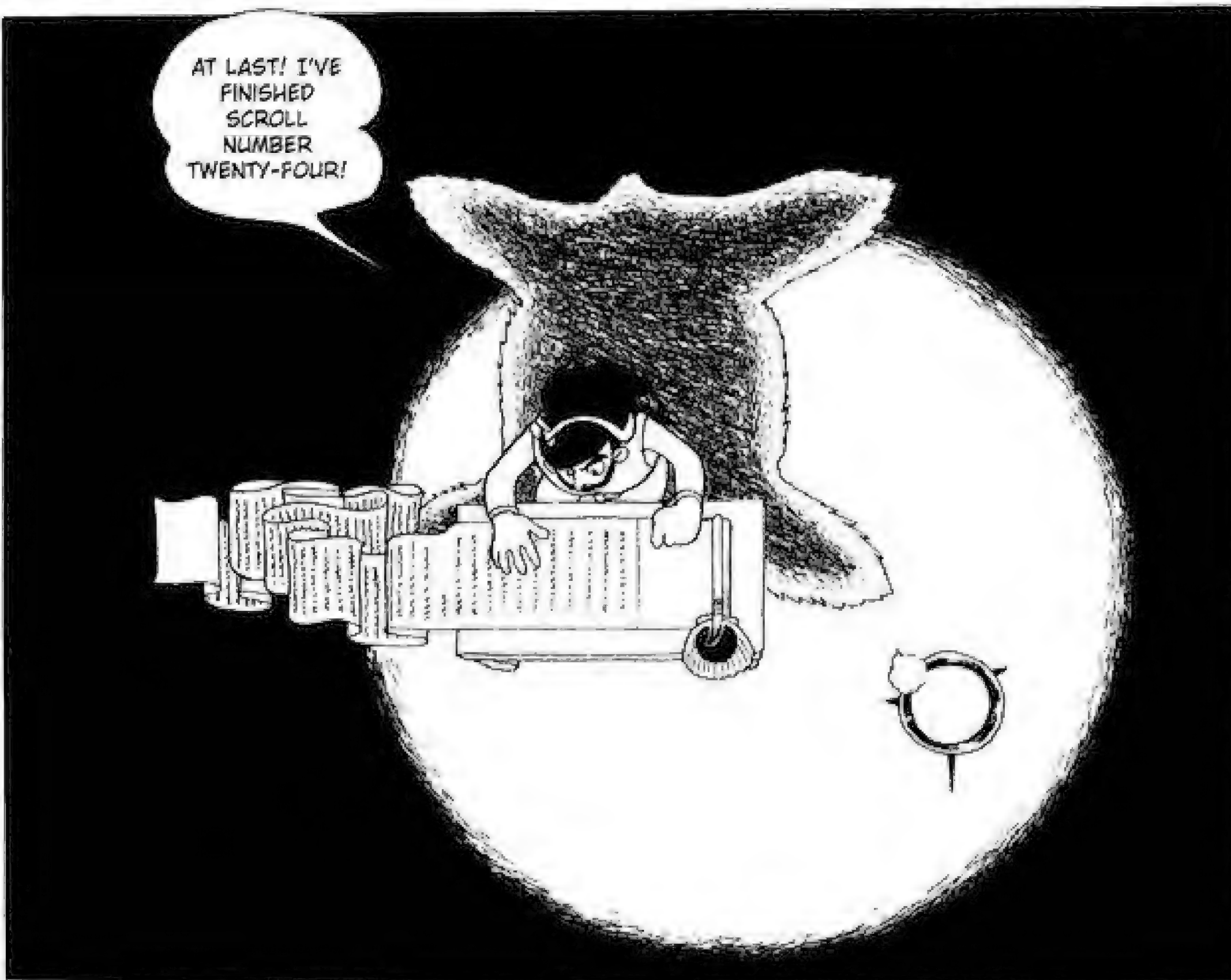
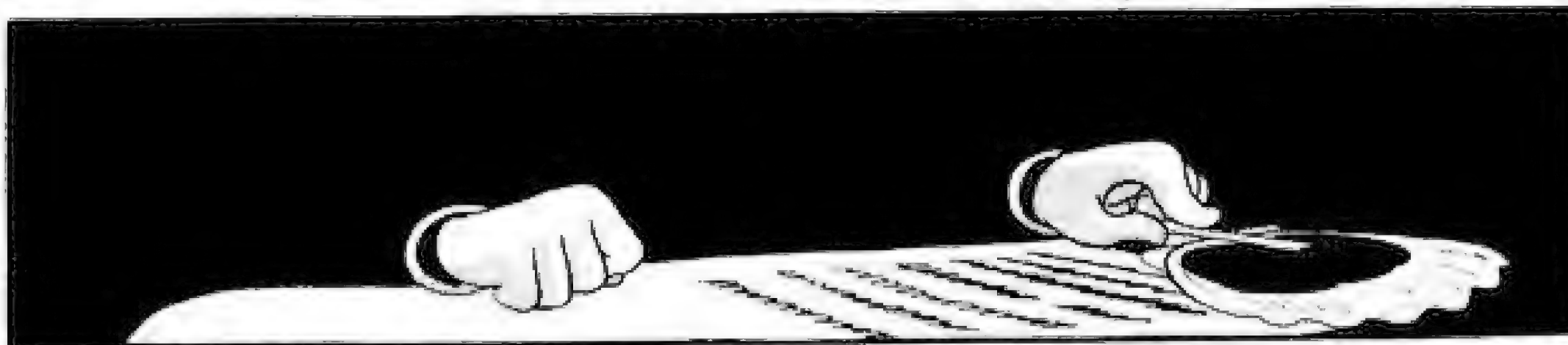


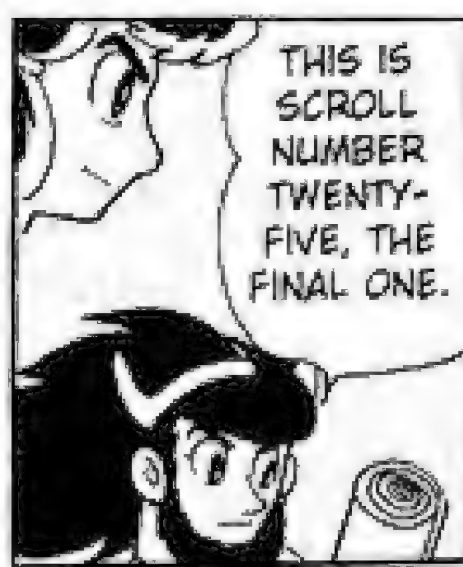
THE FIFTH CENTURY INHABITANTS OF THE SOUTHERN HALF OF KYUSHU CALLED THIS LAND KUMASO. IT IS RECORDED THAT IN 478 A.D., A MAN NAMED WAObU SUBDUED THE "HAIRY INHABITANTS OF 55 LANDS TO THE EAST" AND THE "BARBARIANS OF 66 LANDS TO THE WEST." THE LATTER SEEMS TO BE A REFERENCE TO KUMASO, A FEDERATION OF SMALL NATIONS SCATTERED IN THE AREA WHICH WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN UNITED BY A POWERFUL CHIEFTAIN, TAKERU KAWAKAMI, AS HE IS CALLED IN THIS STORY. THE KUMASO NATION WAS AT A CONSTANT WAR WITH YAMATO AND THEIR CONFLICT WAS A LONG AND VIOLENT AFFAIR.

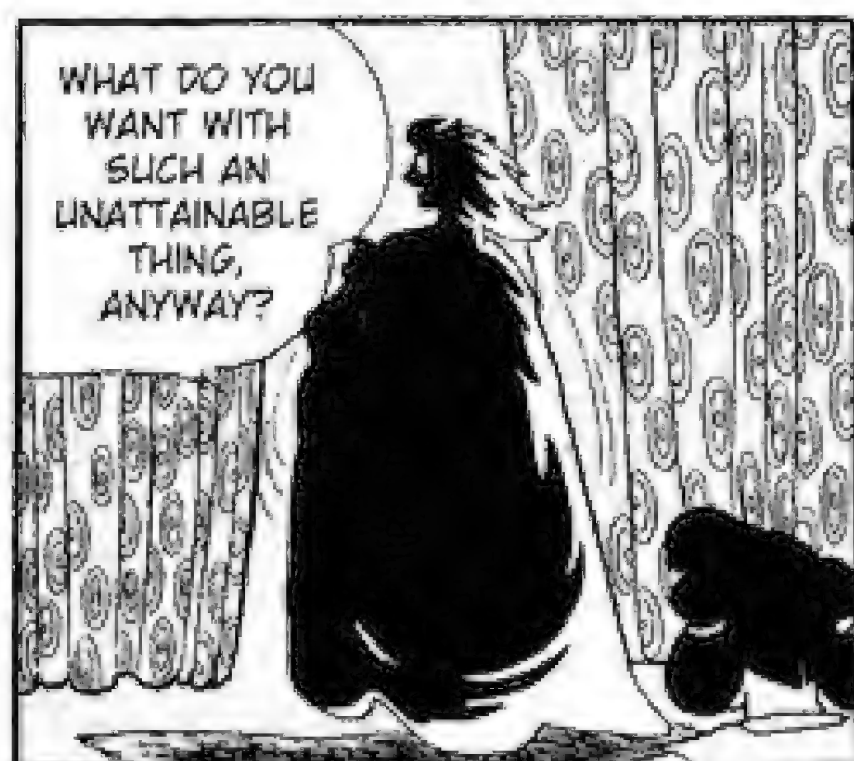


CHRONICLES OF THE YAMATO COURT SUCH AS THE KOJIKI AND NIHON SHOKI (TWO OF THE OLDEST REMAINING HISTORIES OF JAPAN) INVARIABLY DESCRIBE THEIR ADVERSARY, KUMASO, AS A BARBARIAN NATION. HOWEVER, IF SOME CITIZEN OF KUMASO HAD LEFT US A SIMILAR HISTORICAL WORK, OUR VIEW OF ANCIENT JAPANESE HISTORY MIGHT BE ENTIRELY DIFFERENT FROM WHAT IT IS NOW. UNFORTUNATELY, WE HAVE ONLY YAMATO'S HISTORICAL RECORDS.

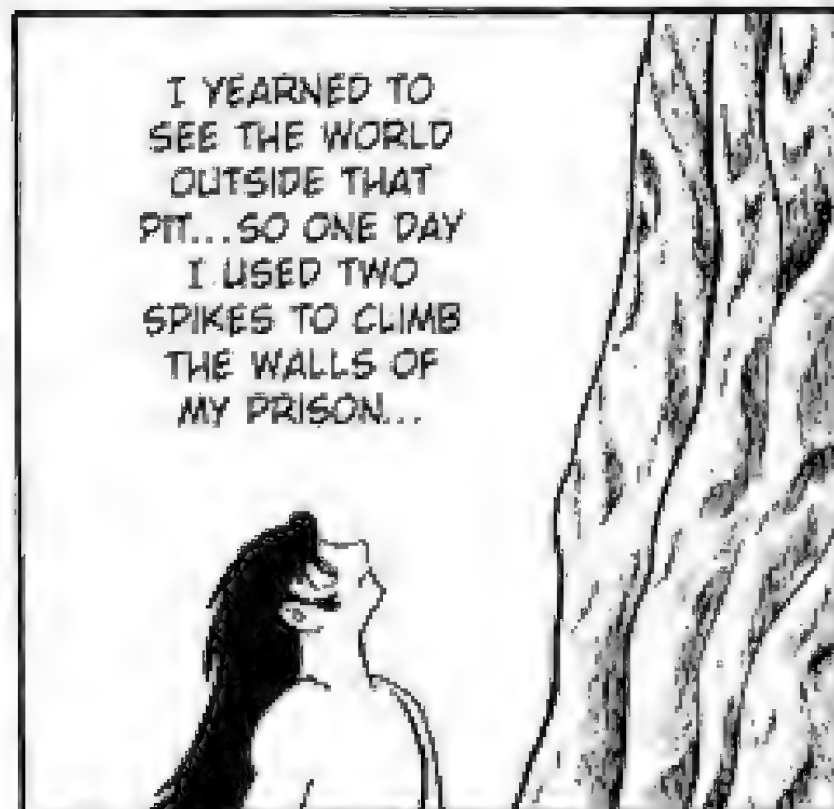
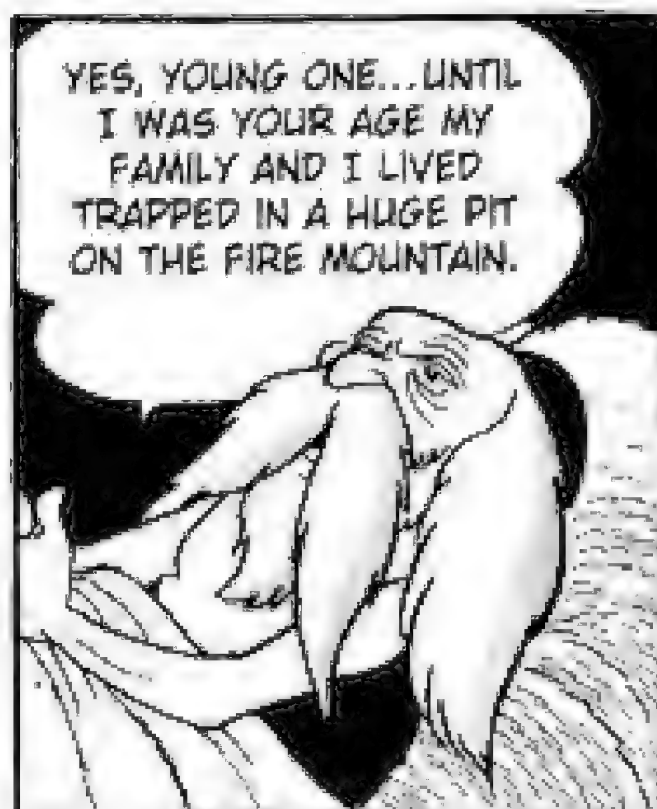
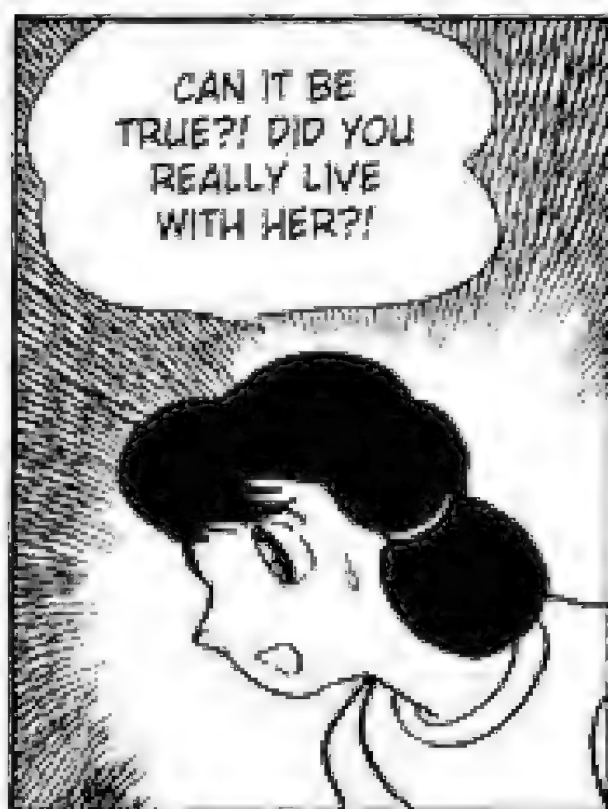
WE CAN BE SURE THAT KUMASO VIEWED YAMATO'S ATTEMPTS AT SUBJUGATION AS CLEAR EXAMPLES OF AGGRESSION... UNLESS HISTORY IS VIEWED FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF ALL OF ITS PARTICIPANTS, THE TRUTH WILL NEVER BE KNOWN....



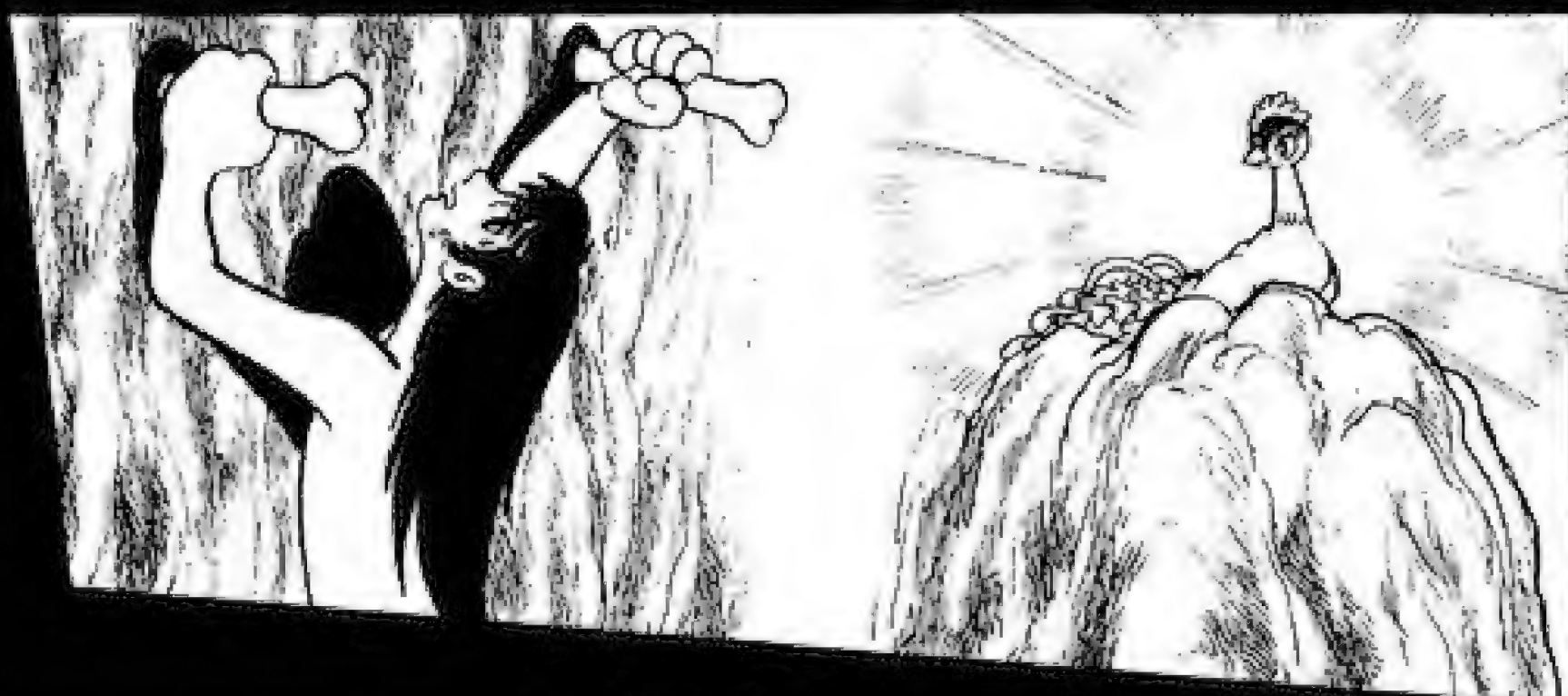








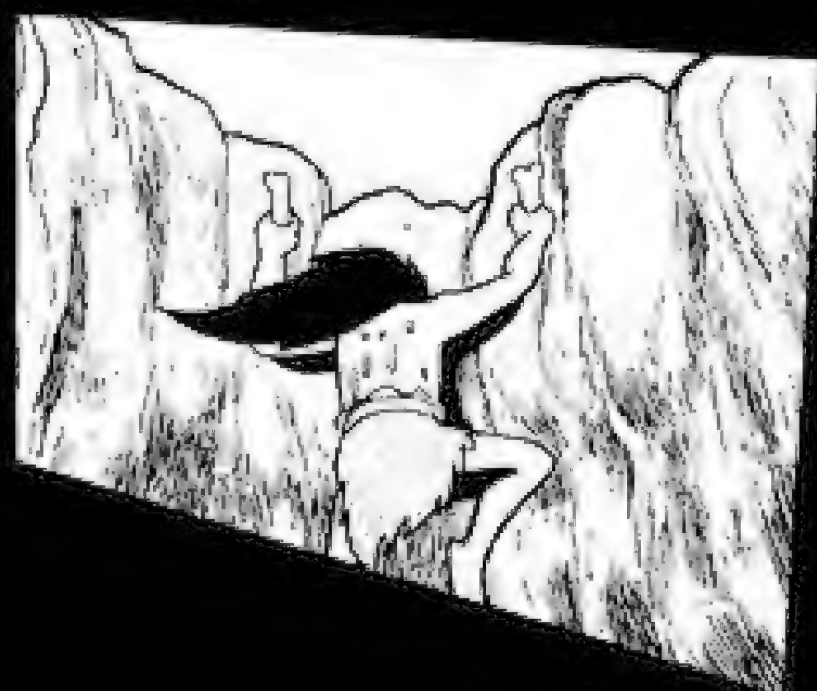
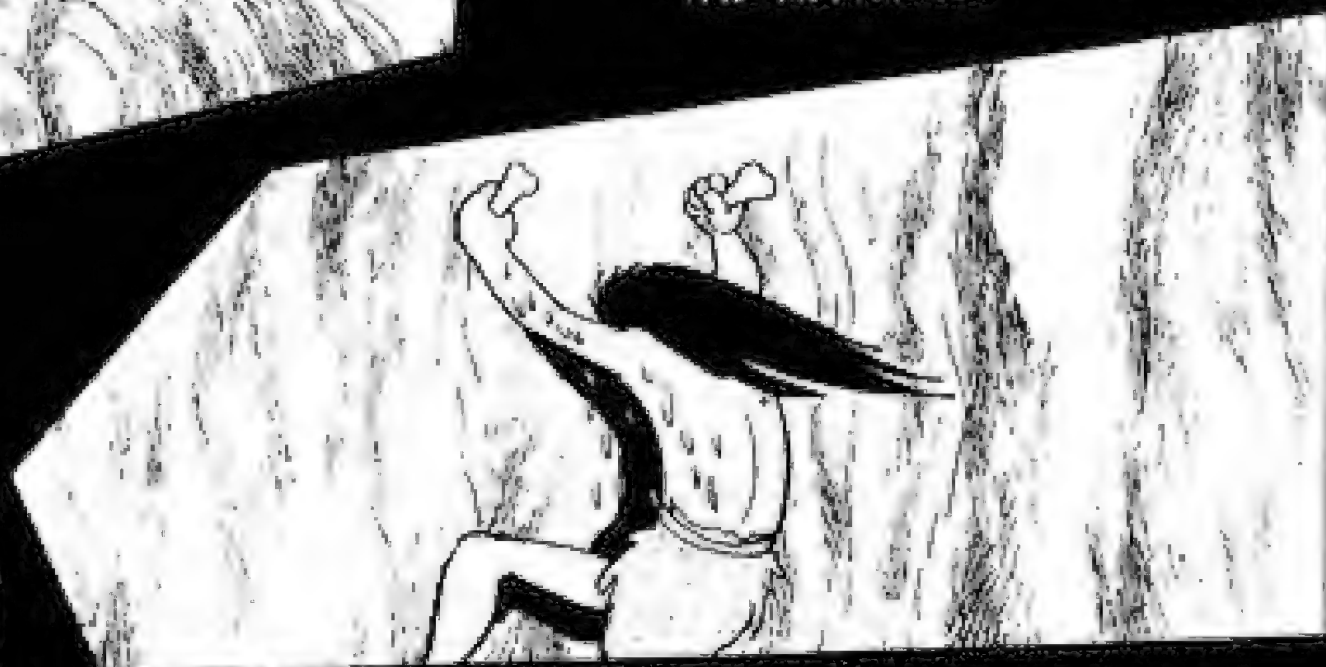
"SHE
SPOKE TO
YOU?
COME ON,
OLD MAN,
DON'T PULL
MY LEG."



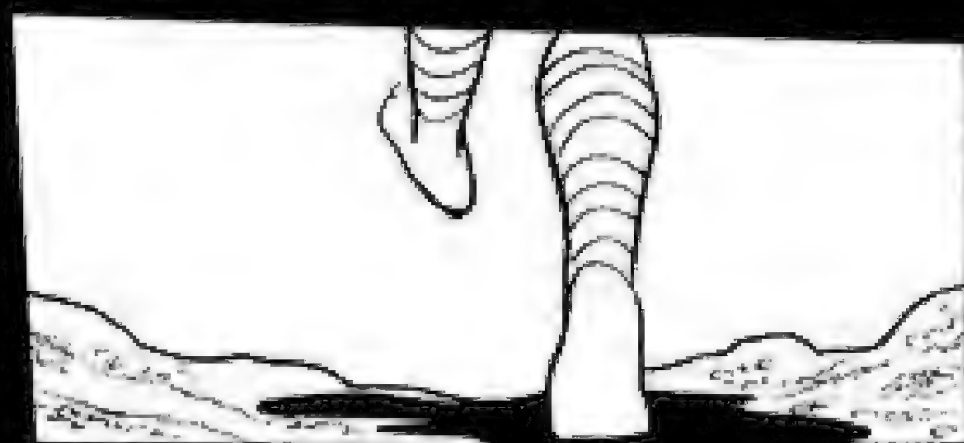
SHE DIDN'T SPEAK
WITH WORDS...SHE
SPOKE IN MY
MIND...HER VOICE
SEEMED TO BE FILLED
WITH LOVE...IT FELT
LIKE A VOICE FROM
THE HEAVENS.



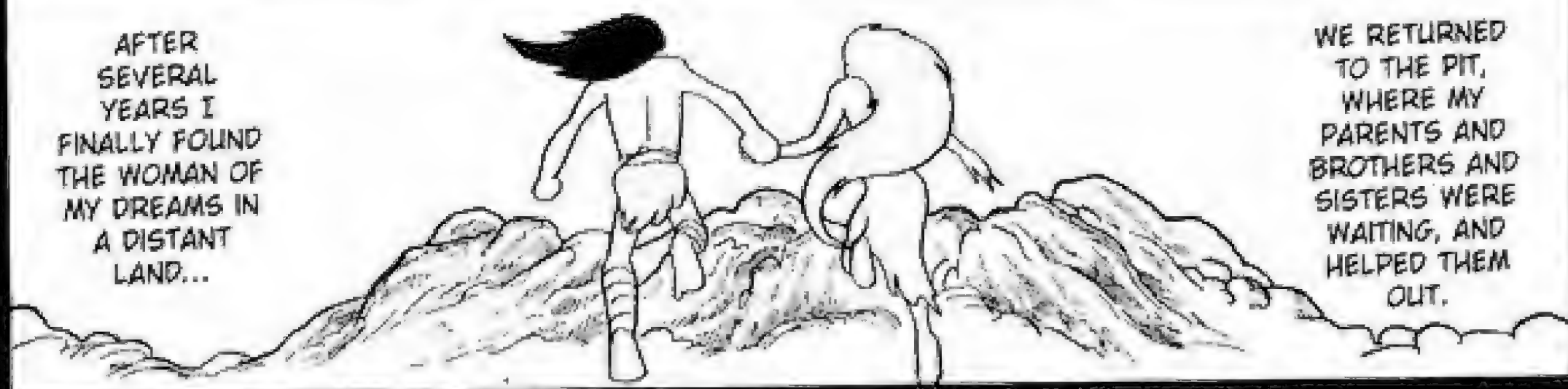
FINALLY...



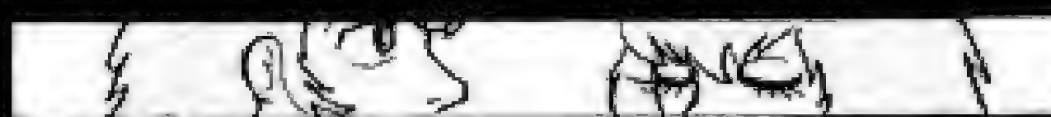
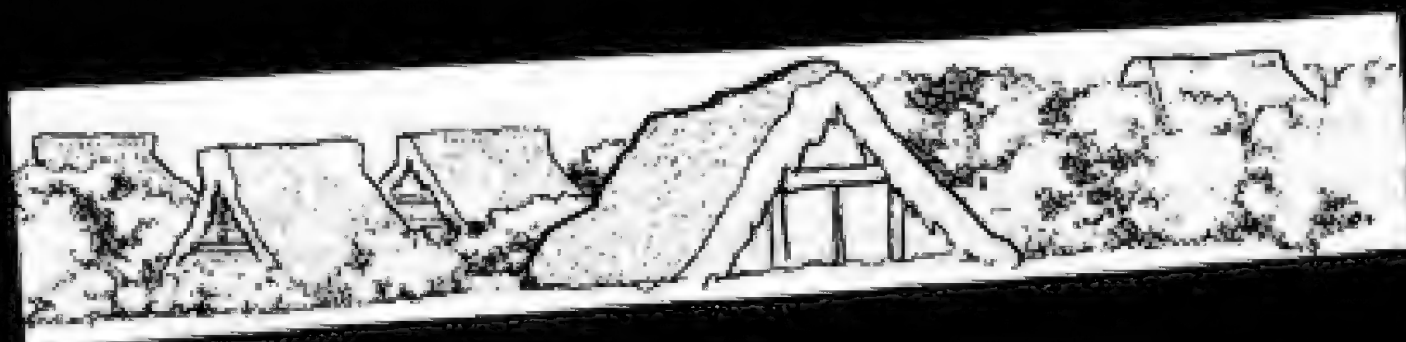
I REACHED THE TOP
AND CLIMBED OVER
THE EDGE.
BUT IF THE PHOENIX
HADN'T ENCOURAGED
ME I WOULD HAVE
FALLEN TO MY DEATH.
I THEN WENT OFF TO
FIND A WOMAN WITH
WHOM I COULD START
MY OWN FAMILY.



AFTER
SEVERAL
YEARS I
FINALLY FOUND
THE WOMAN OF
MY DREAMS IN
A DISTANT
LAND...



WE RETURNED
TO THE PIT,
WHERE MY
PARENTS AND
BROTHERS AND
SISTERS WERE
WAITING, AND
HELPED THEM
OUT.



WE ALL
BUILT A
SMALL
VILLAGE AT
THE FOOT
OF THE
VOLCANO.



SO YOU SEE, SON, THE
PHOENIX IS NOT ONLY
MY GUARDIAN DEITY, BUT
THAT OF THE WHOLE
VILLAGE.

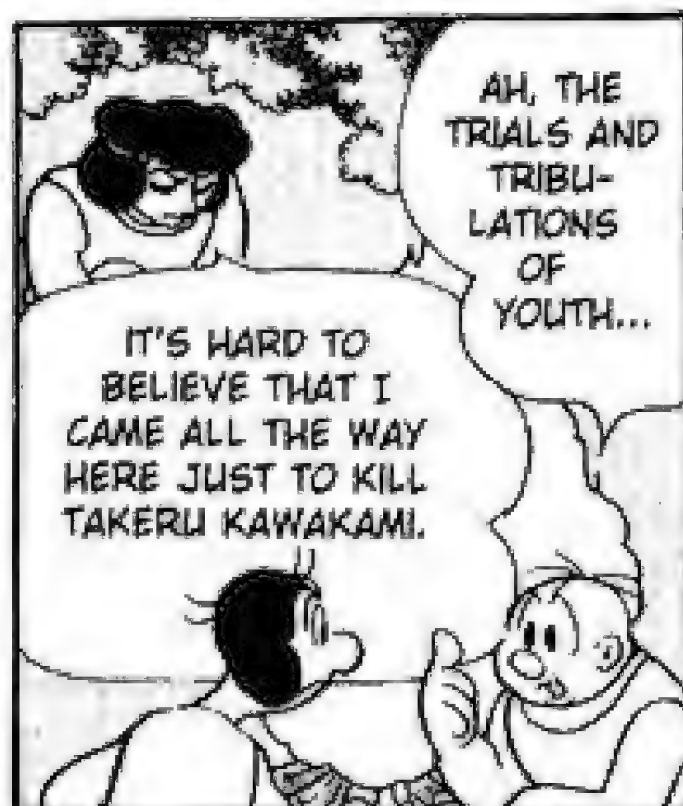
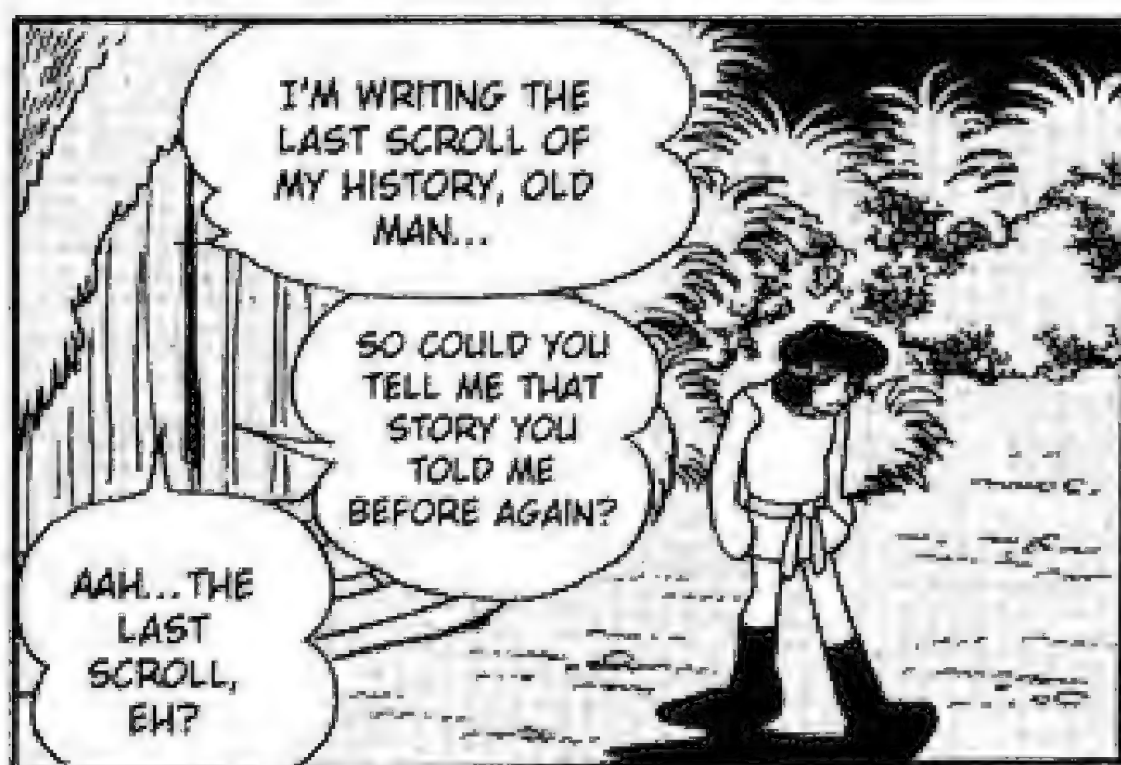


MANY
CHILDREN
WERE
BORN...AND
THEY TOO HAD
CHILDREN.
SCATTERED
MEMBERS OF
OUR TRIBE
ALSO
GRADUALLY
RETURNED.

BUT...BUT YOU
COULD HAVE
GRABBED THE
PHOENIX, DRANK
HER BLOOD, AND
REMAINED YOUNG
FOREVER!

LISTEN, BOY, JUST STAYING ALIVE
WON'T BRING YOU HAPPINESS...THE
MOST IMPORTANT THING IS TO FIND
OUT WHAT YOUR PURPOSE IS WHILE
YOU'RE HERE
ON EARTH.





Dear Babby:

I am a troubled 16-year-old teenager whose father sent him to Kyushu as an assassin. But I think there must be some other purpose to my life. What should I do?

—Oguna

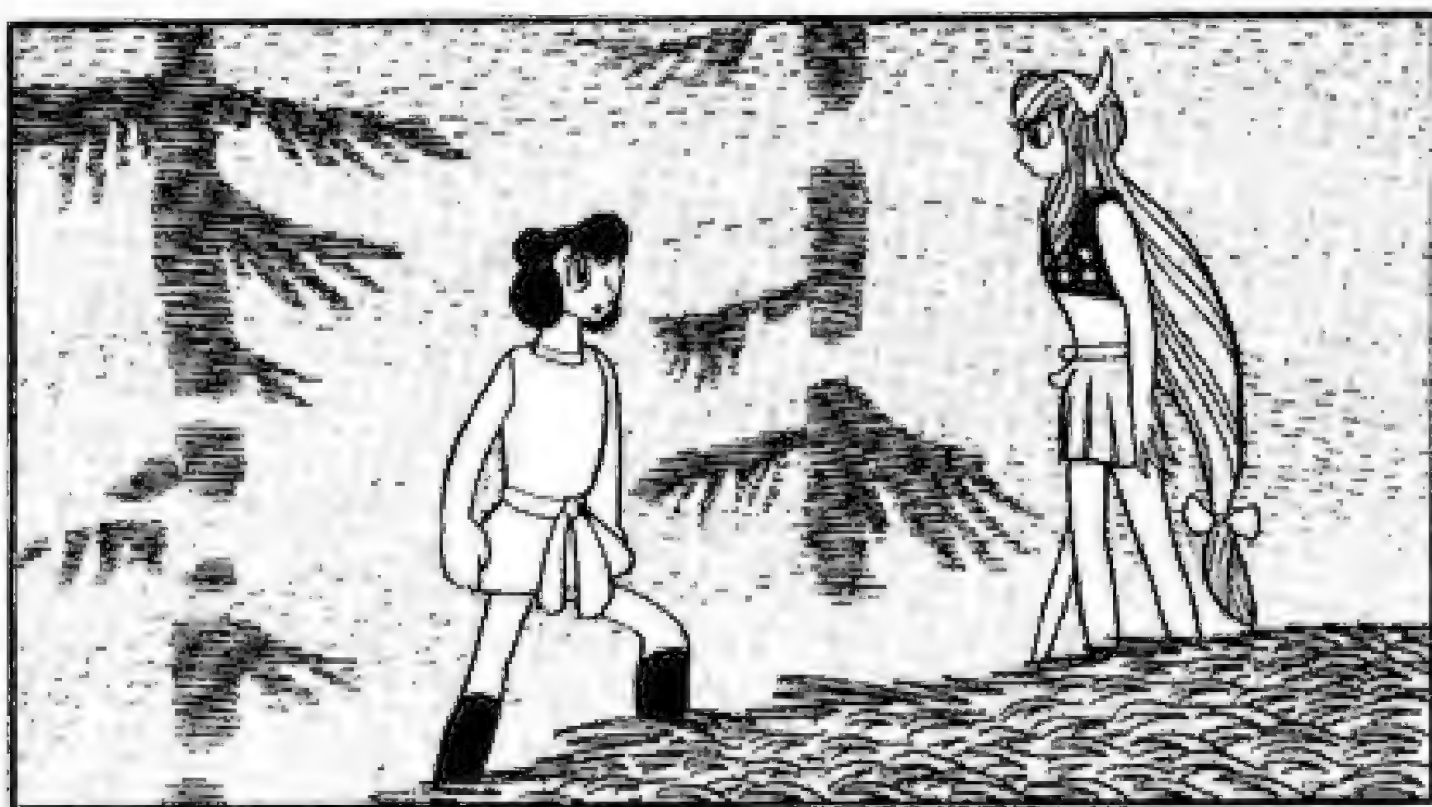
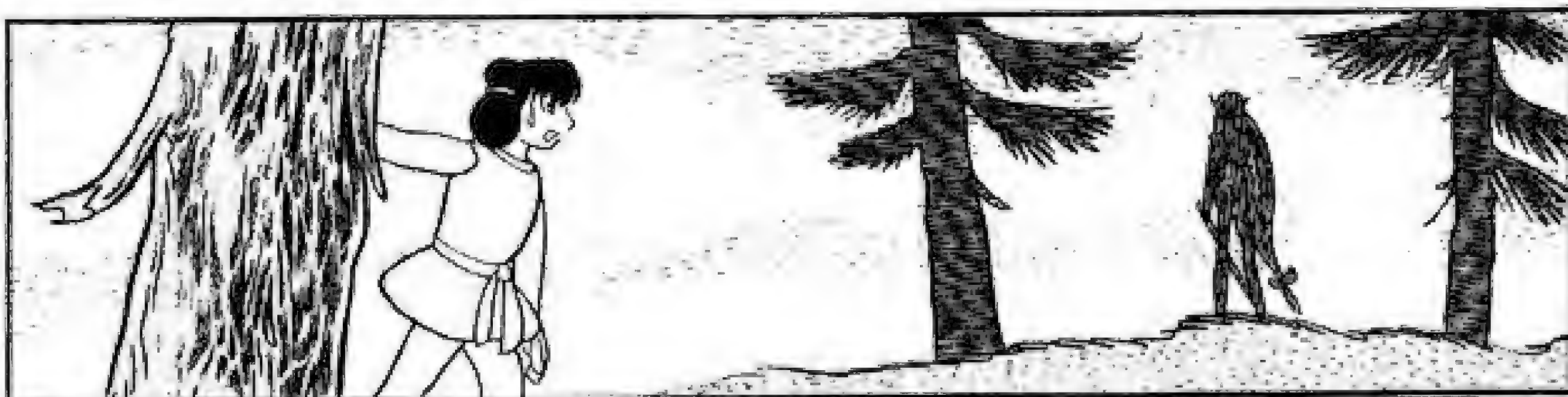
Dear Oguna:

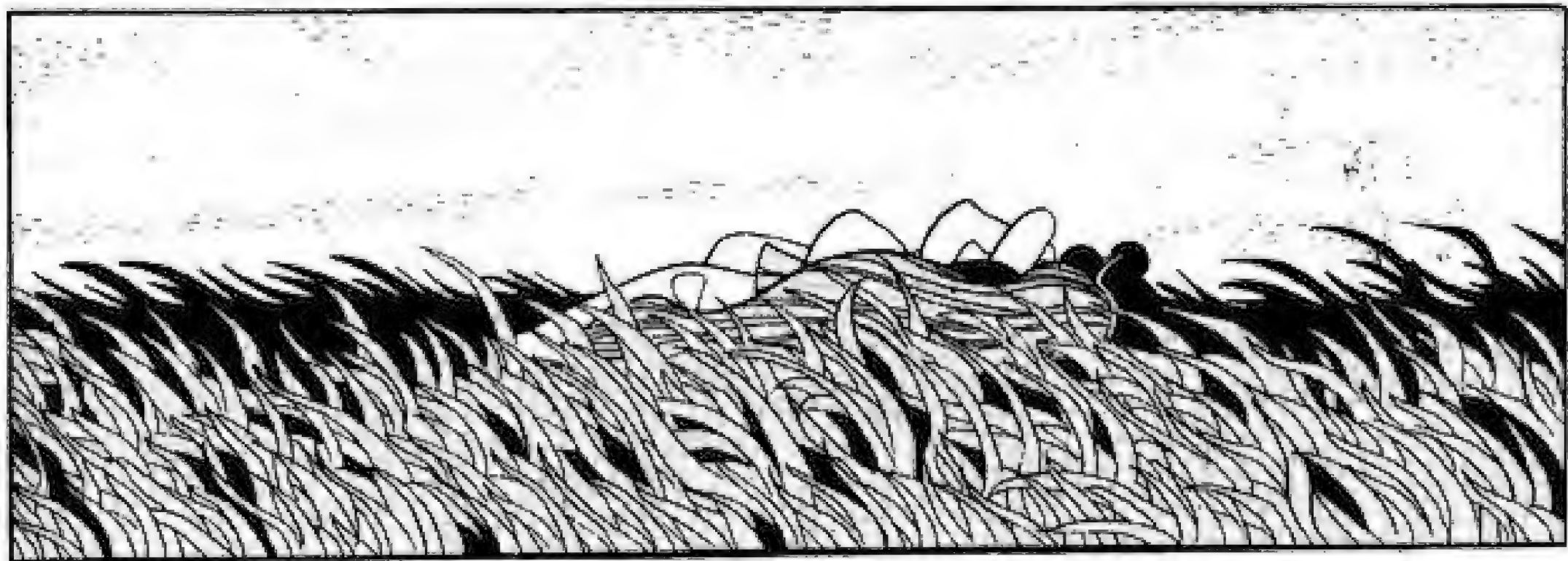
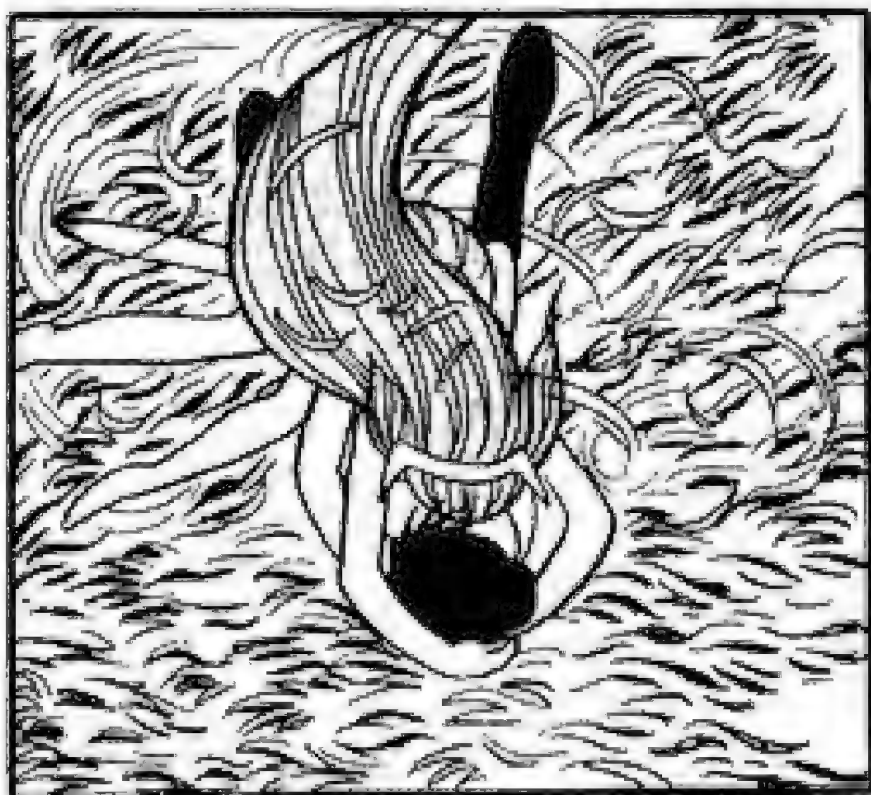
First you must work off the frustration you obviously feel and which is so common at your age. If you have the money, why not travel abroad. Try women...dancing...or if that fails, drugs...join a radical student group and hang the school president... (if that doesn't work join the marines) you could also try mass murder or hijacking...if none of the above work you are obviously a victim of manic depression or schizophrenia, and I suggest you consult a doctor and perhaps become a comic book artist.





GOD...
SOMEONE...
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT
TO DO WITH MY LIFE...
I'M AT A COMPLETE
LOSS!







I LOVE YOU,
KAJIKI.

I'VE
LOVED YOU
TOO...FROM
THE MOMENT
WE MET.



I JUST COULDN'T TELL
YOU...AFTER ALL, WE ARE
SUPPOSED TO BE
ENEMIES...

BUT EVEN IF WE
ARE ENEMIES,
I'LL NEVER LET
YOU RETURN TO
YAMATO. YOU'LL
JOIN US!



NO KAJIKI!
I CAN'T!

YOU CAN!
YOU'RE A
WARRIOR!
YOU EVEN
KILLED IMARI!



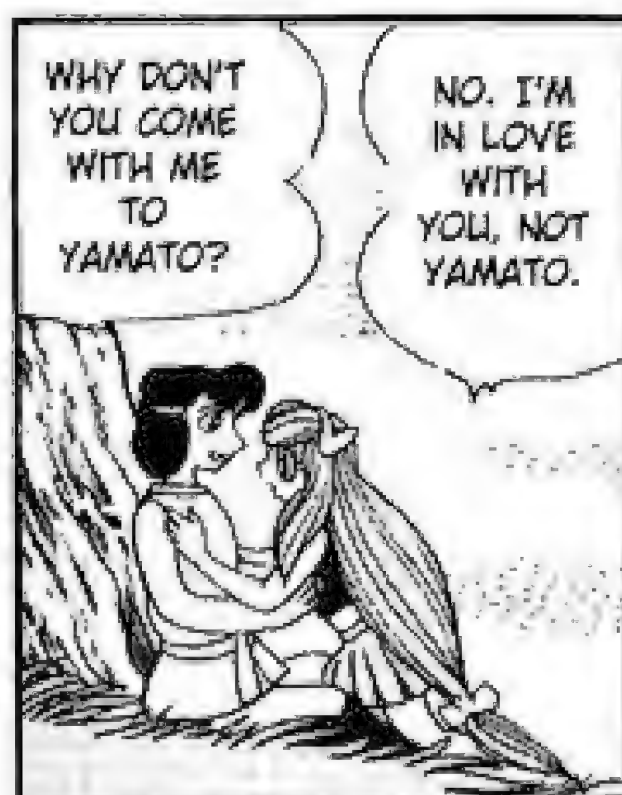
NO...
I
CAN'T!



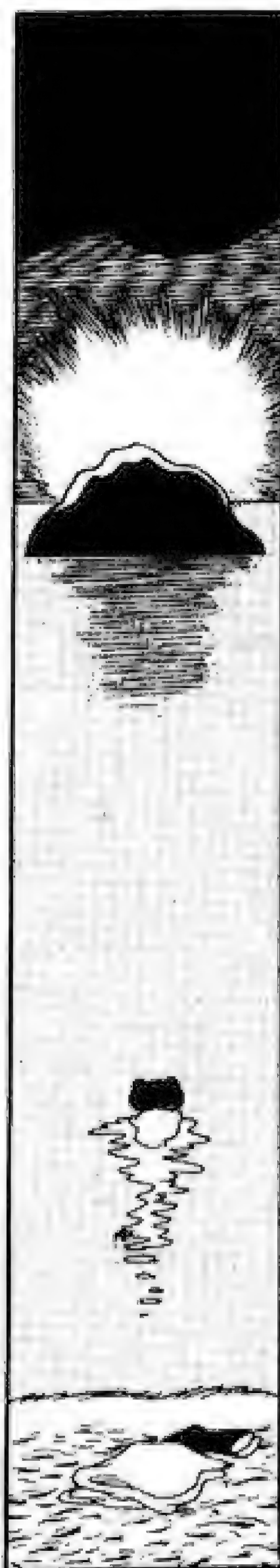
AAH KAJIKI!
WHAT SHOULD
I DO?! I LOVE
YOU!

PROMISE ME
YOU'LL JOIN US,
OGUNA!

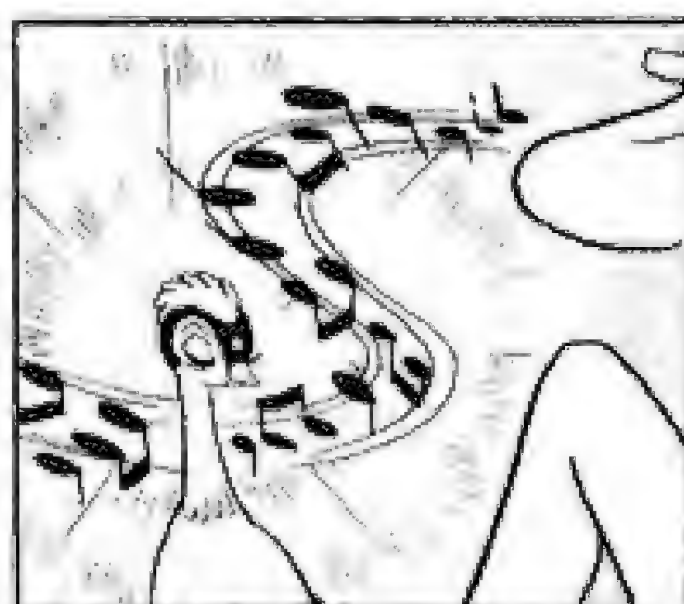
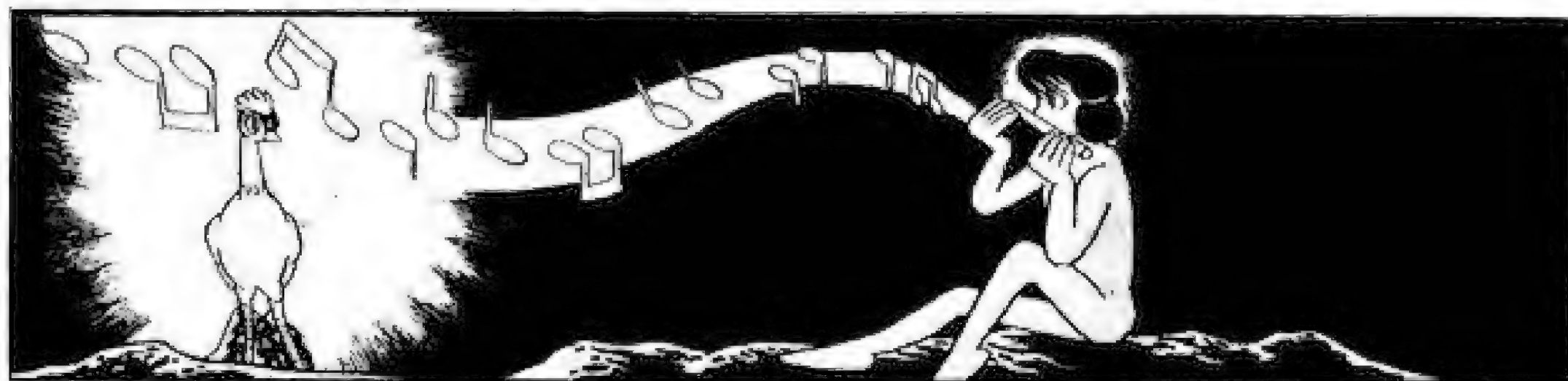
I WON'T LET
YOU SAY
NO!

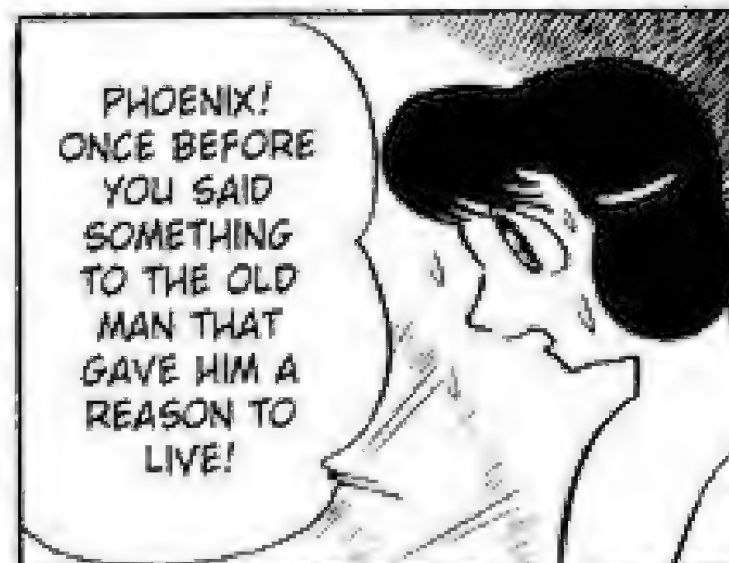
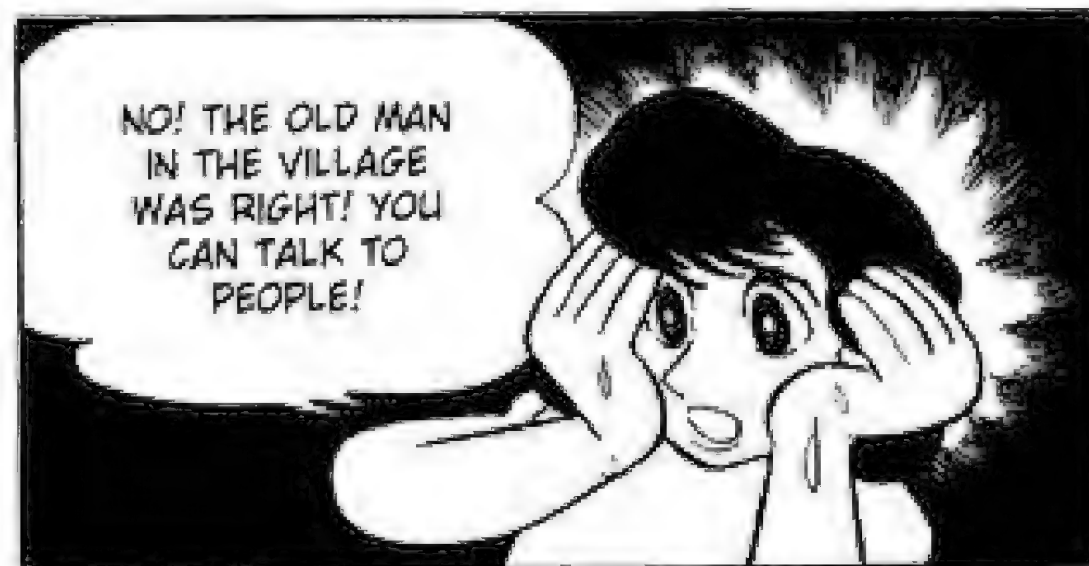
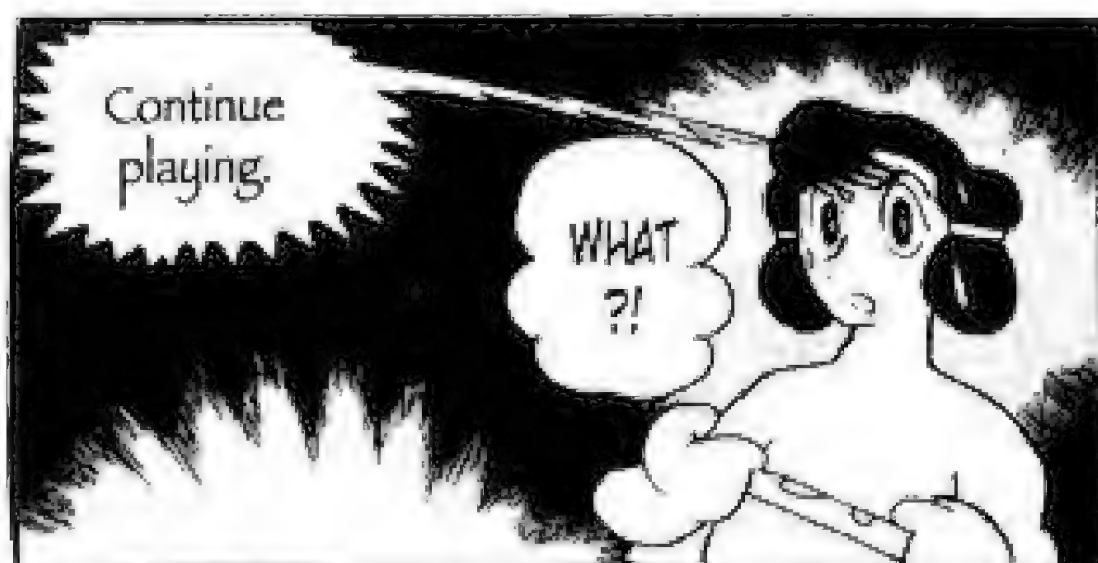


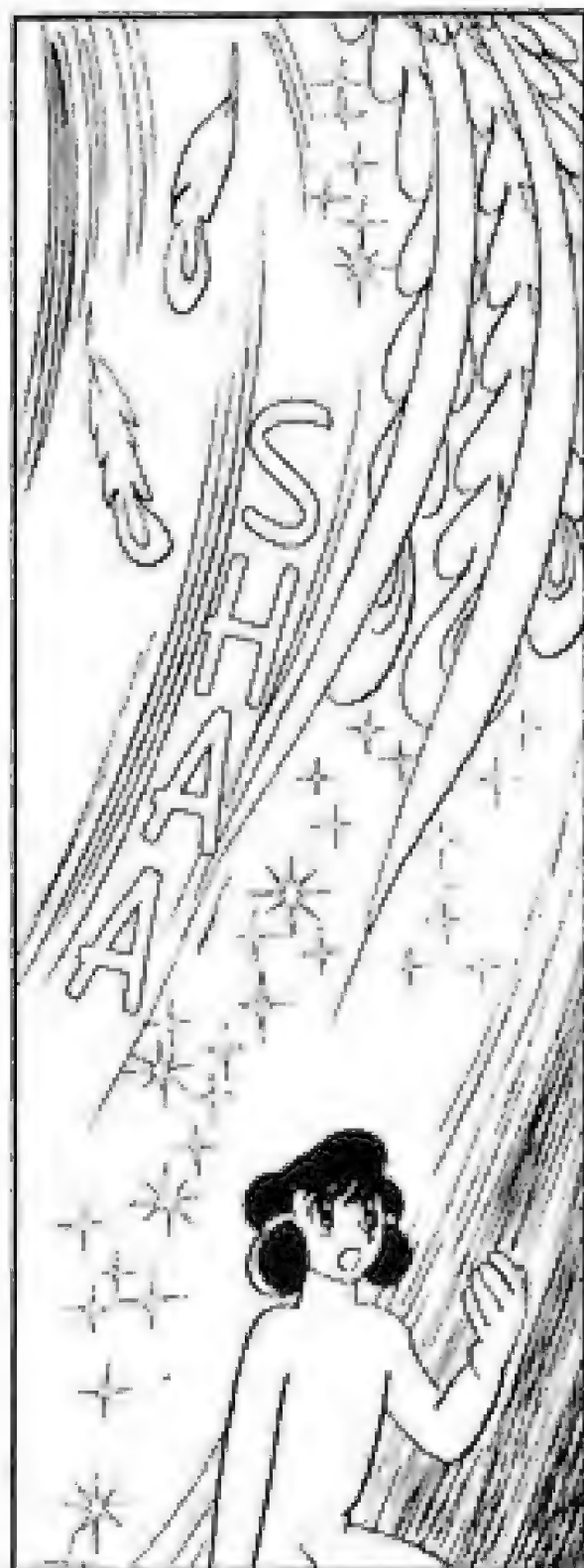
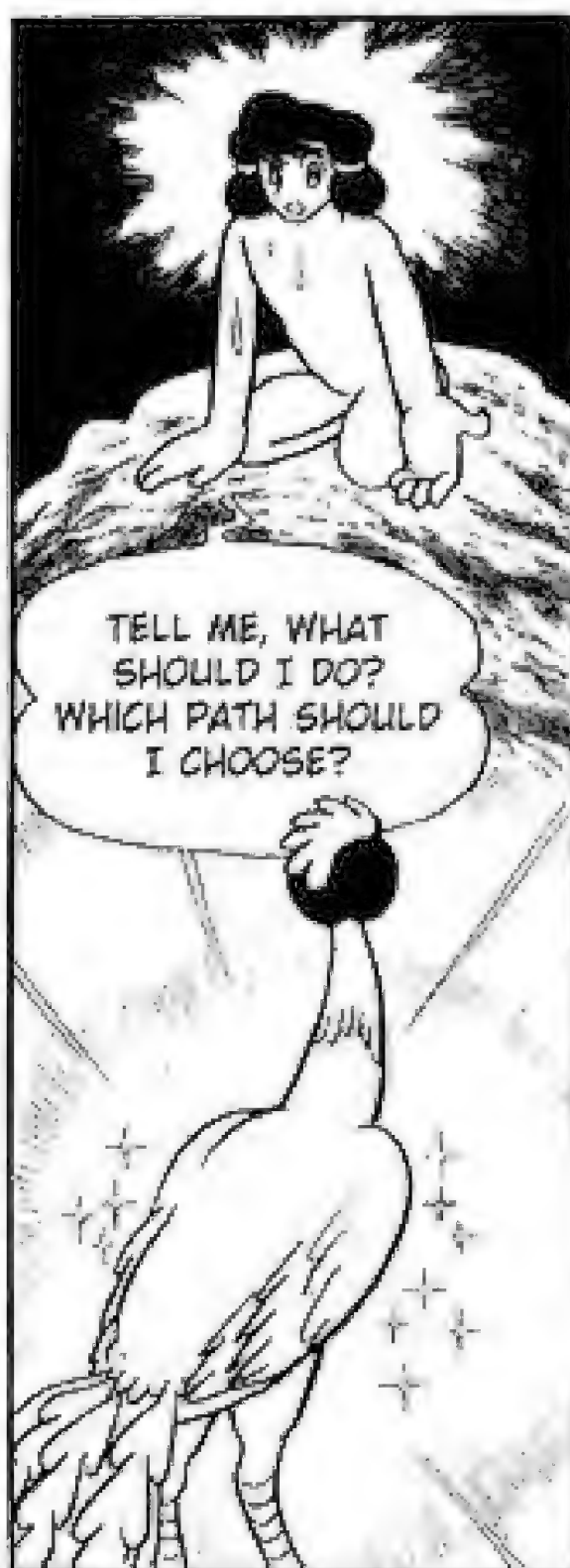
NO. I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU, NOT YAMATO.

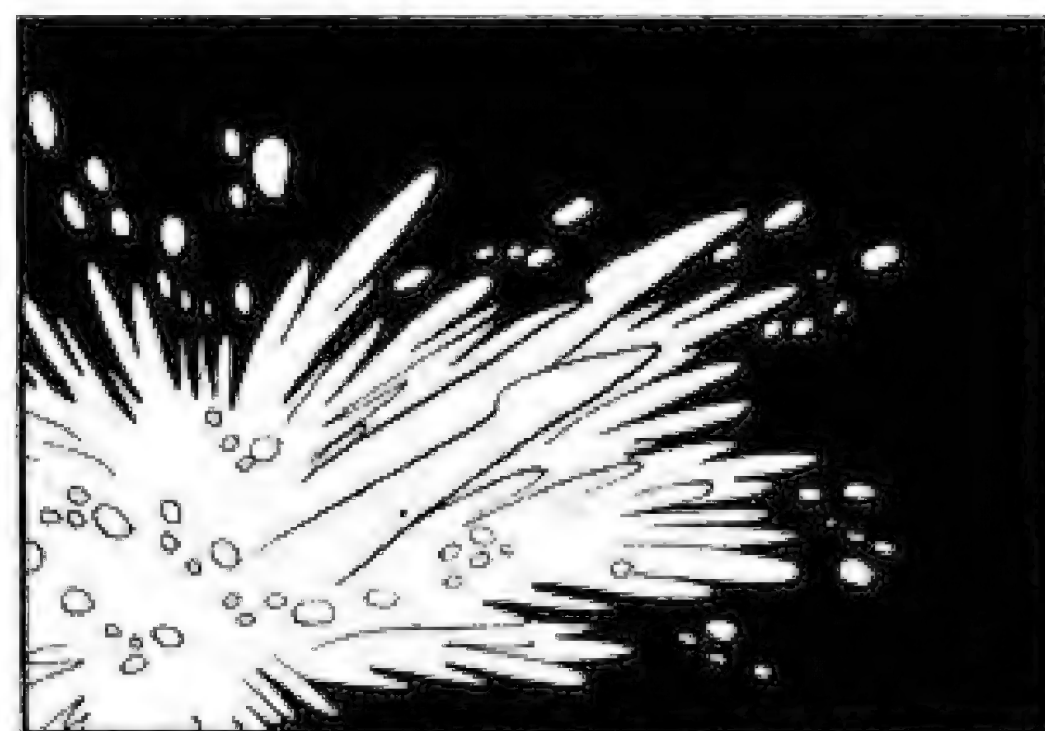
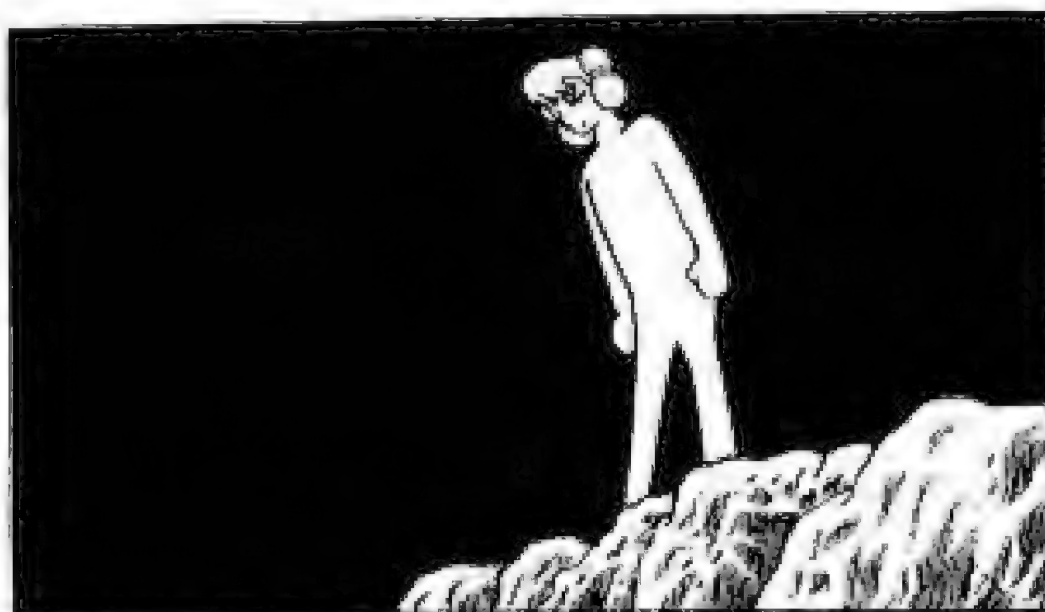
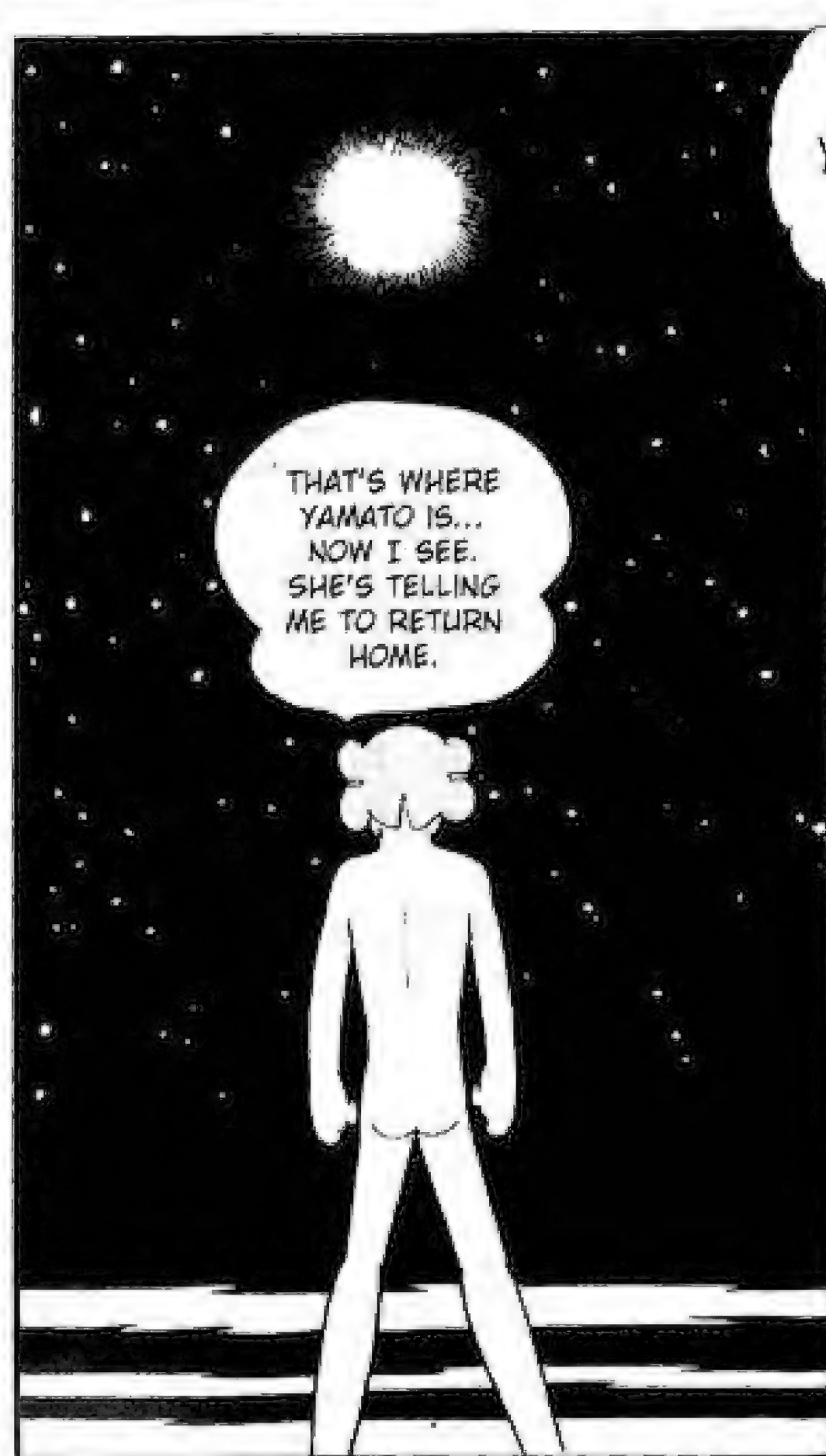
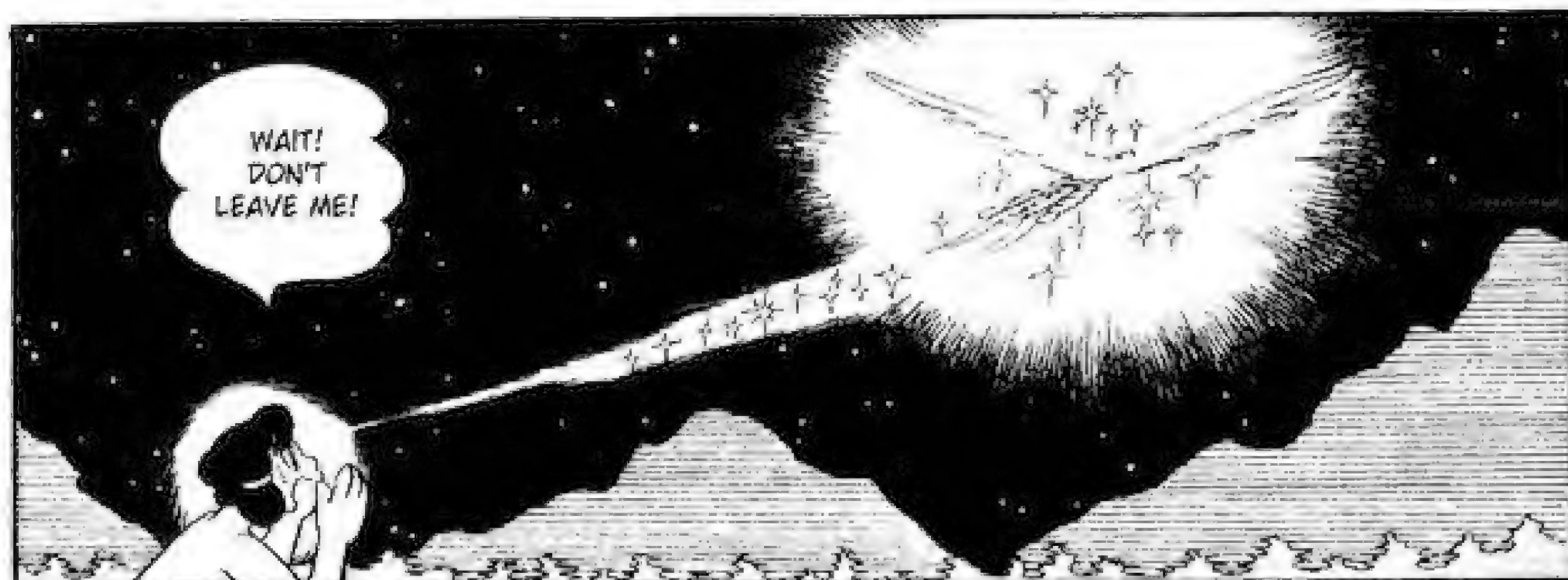


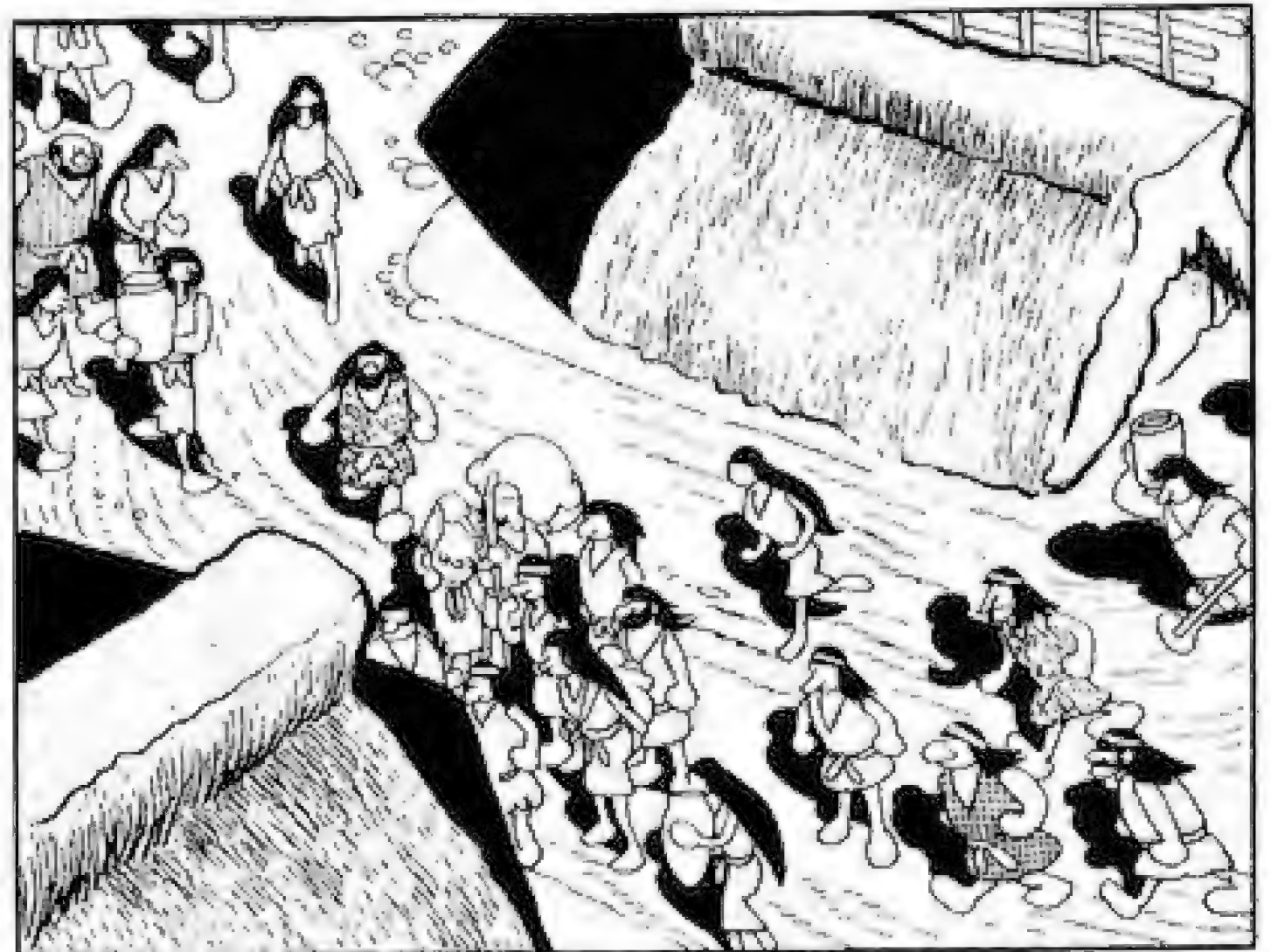
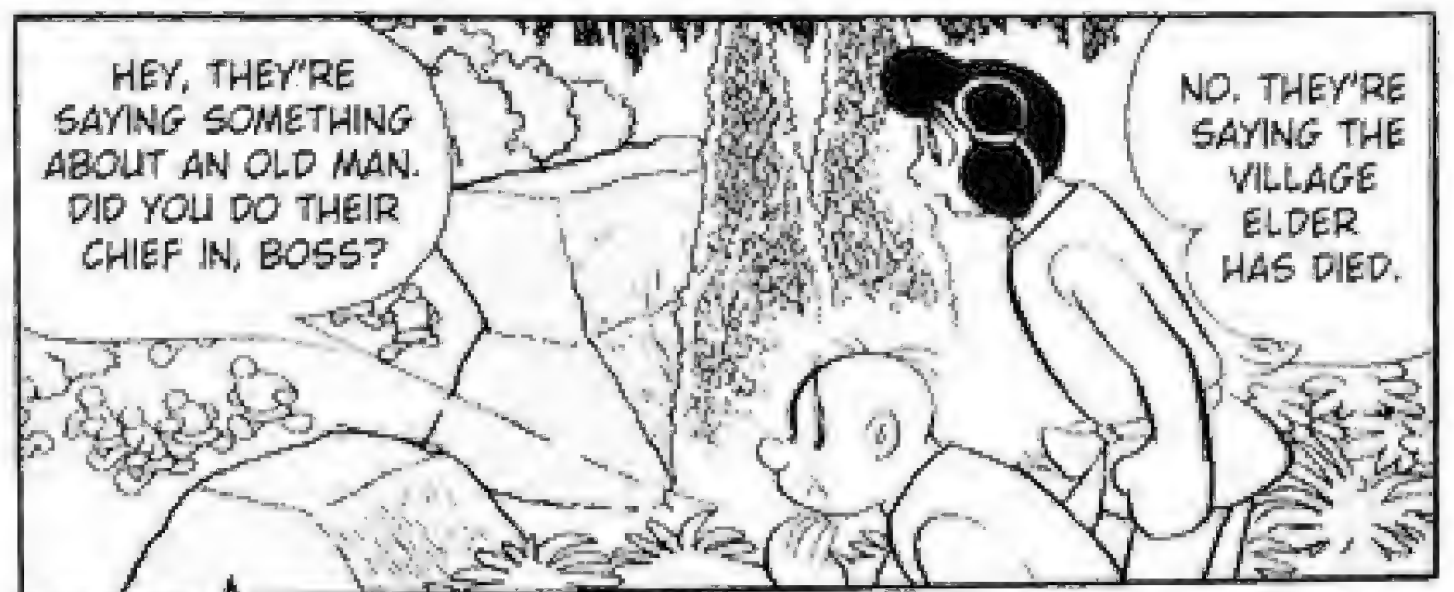
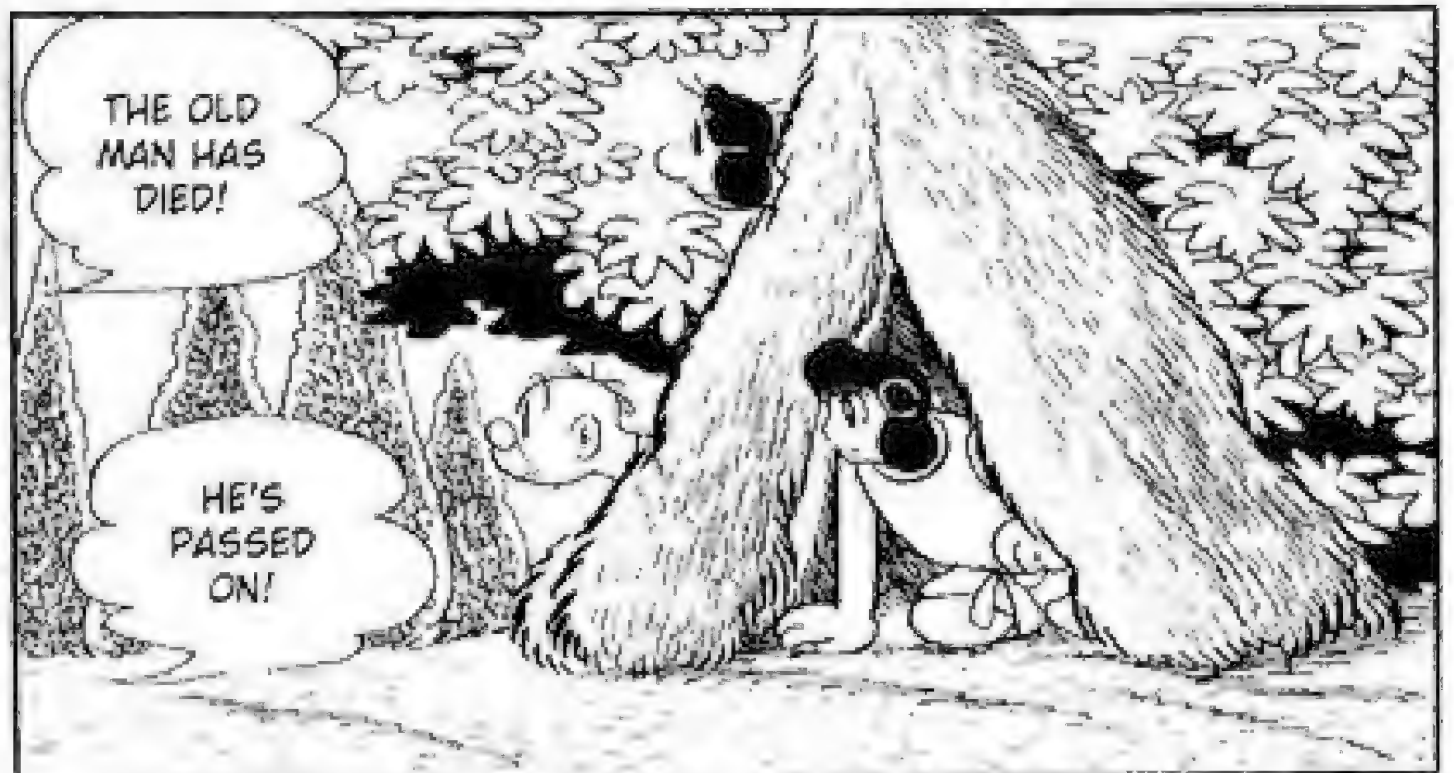


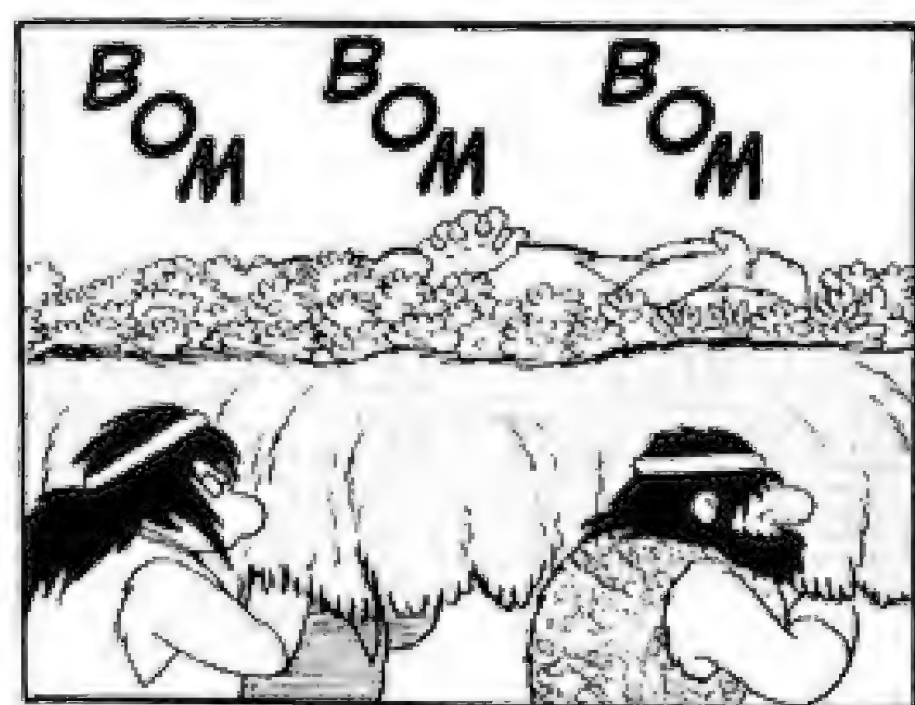
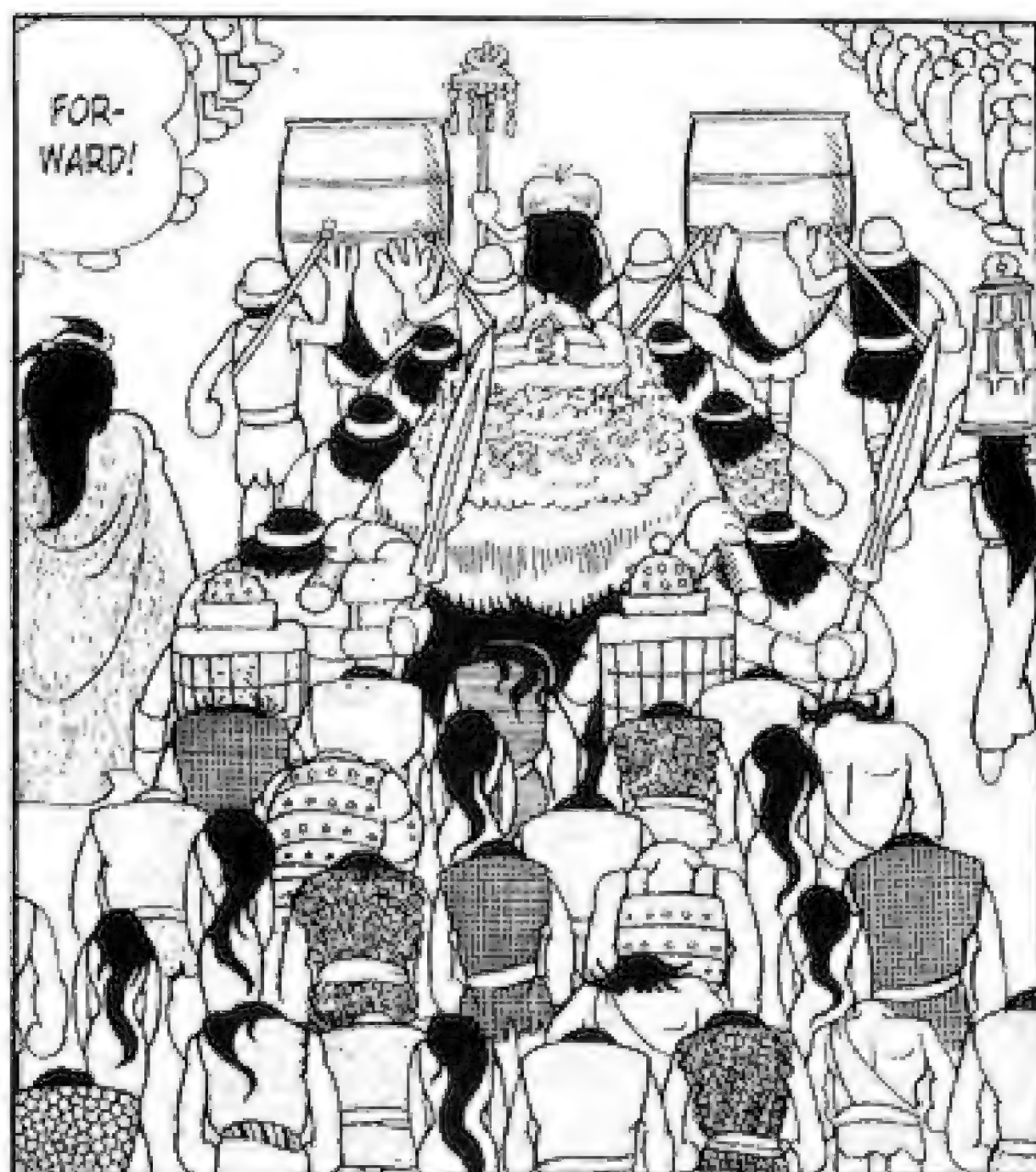


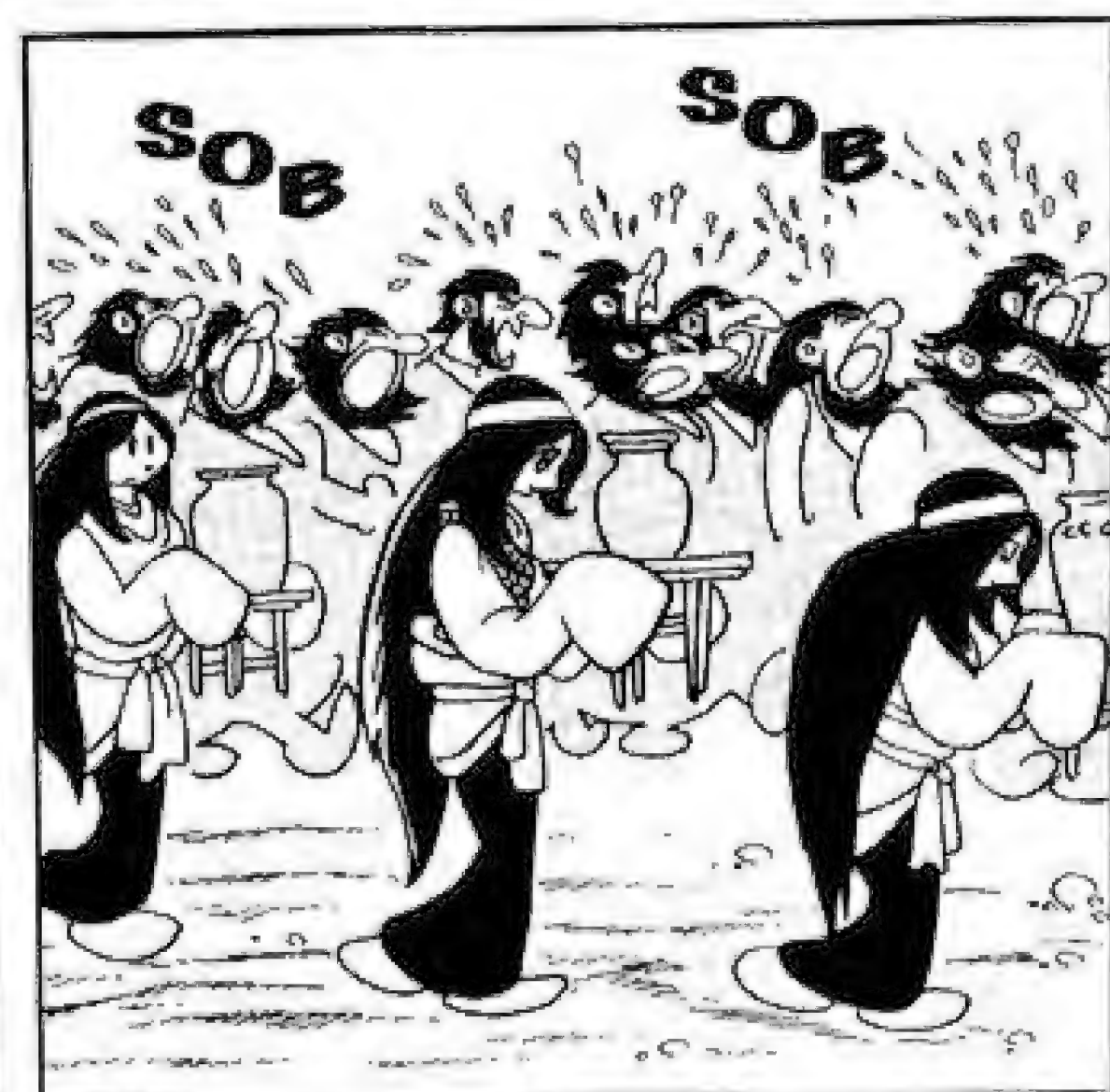
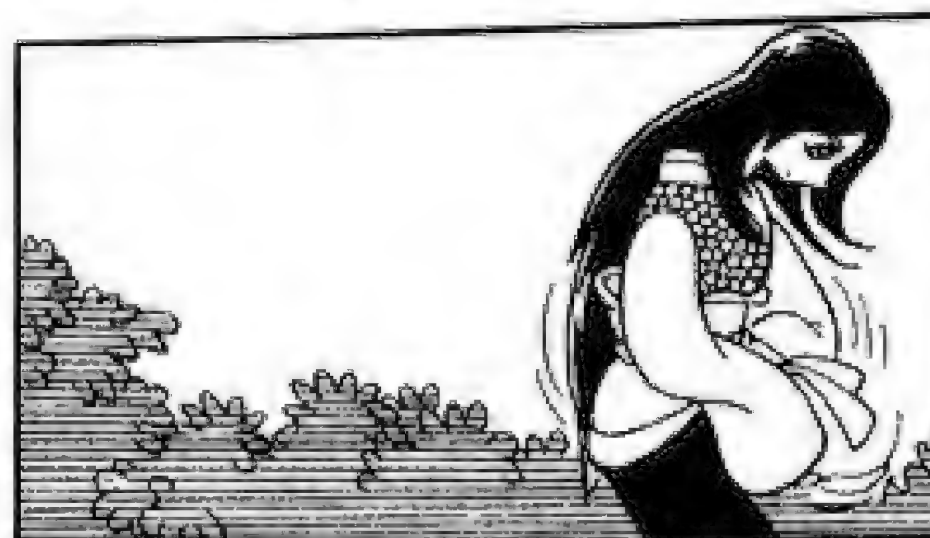
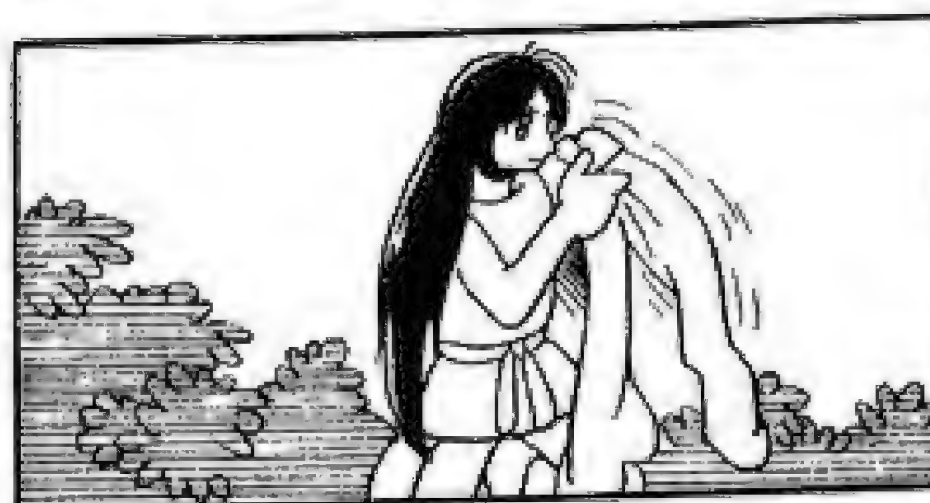
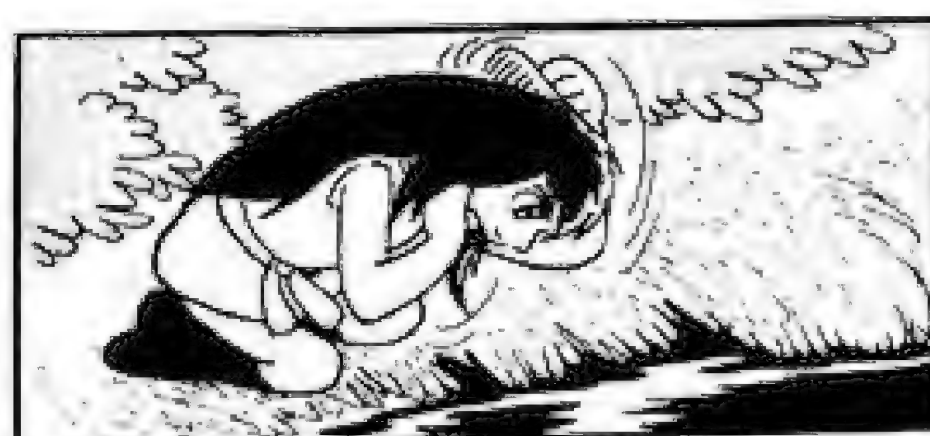
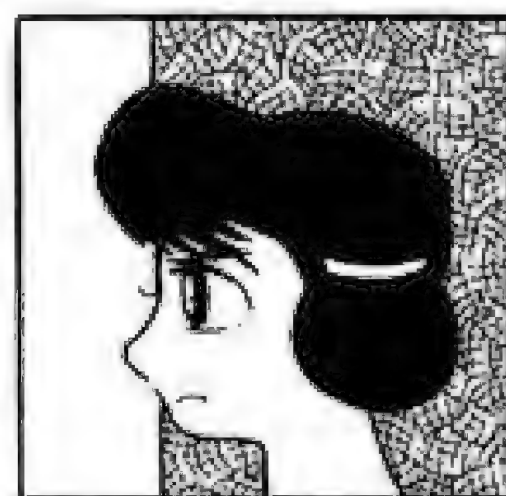
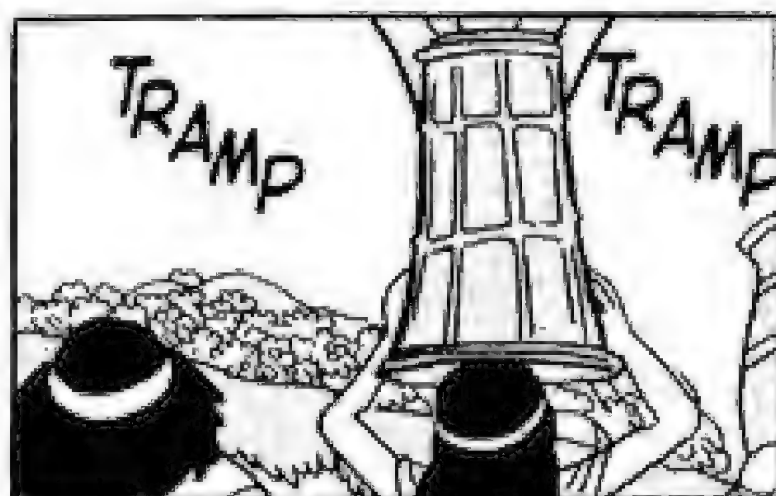
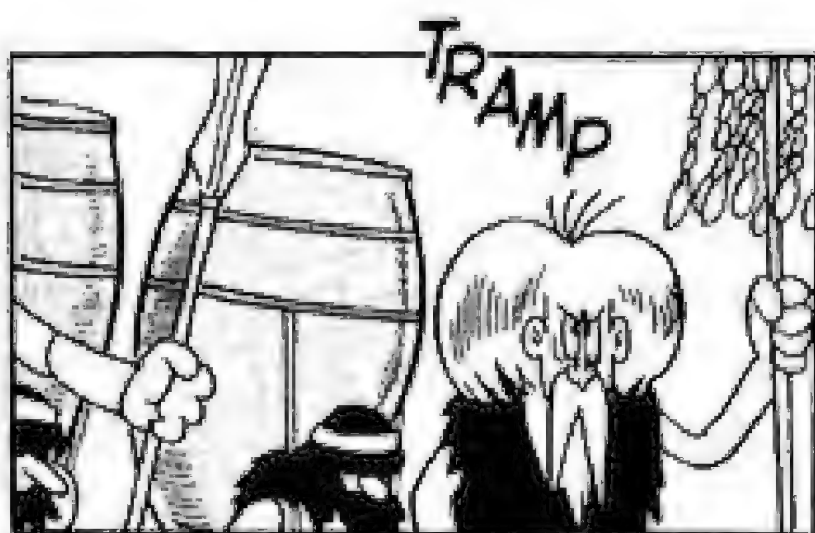


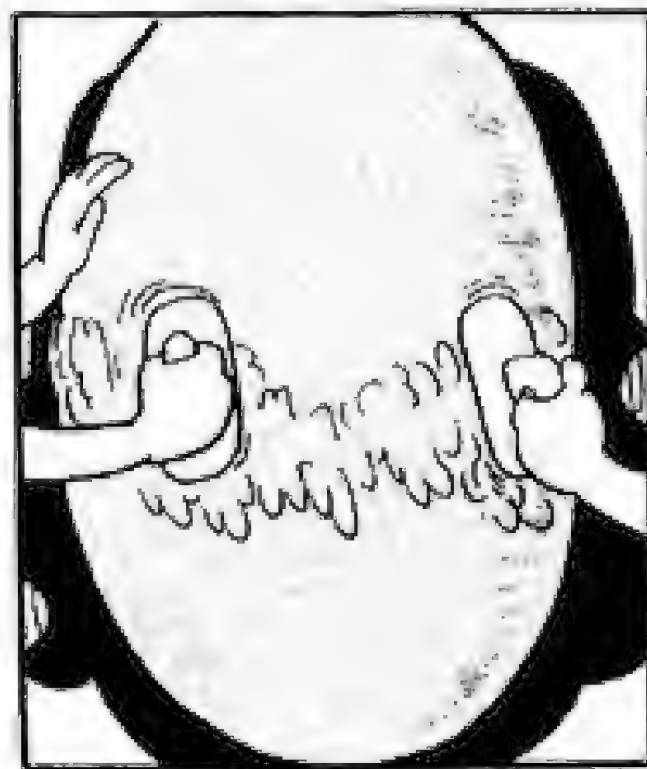
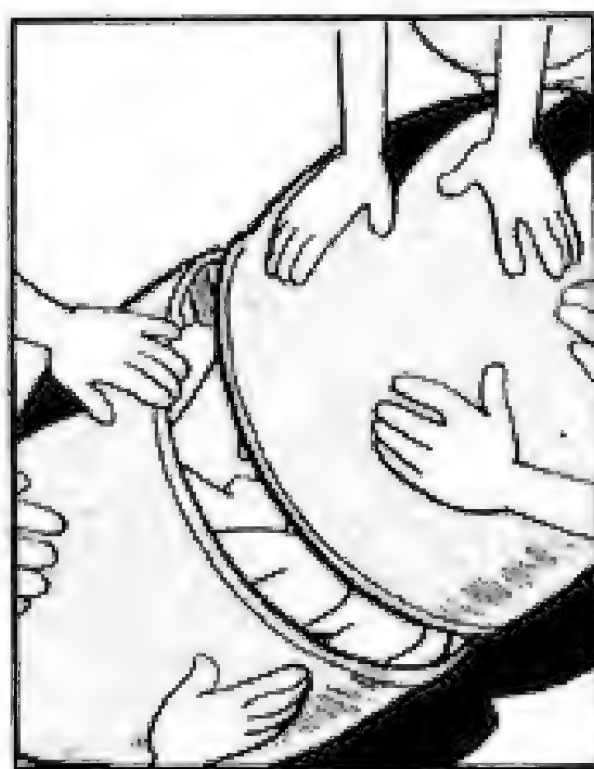
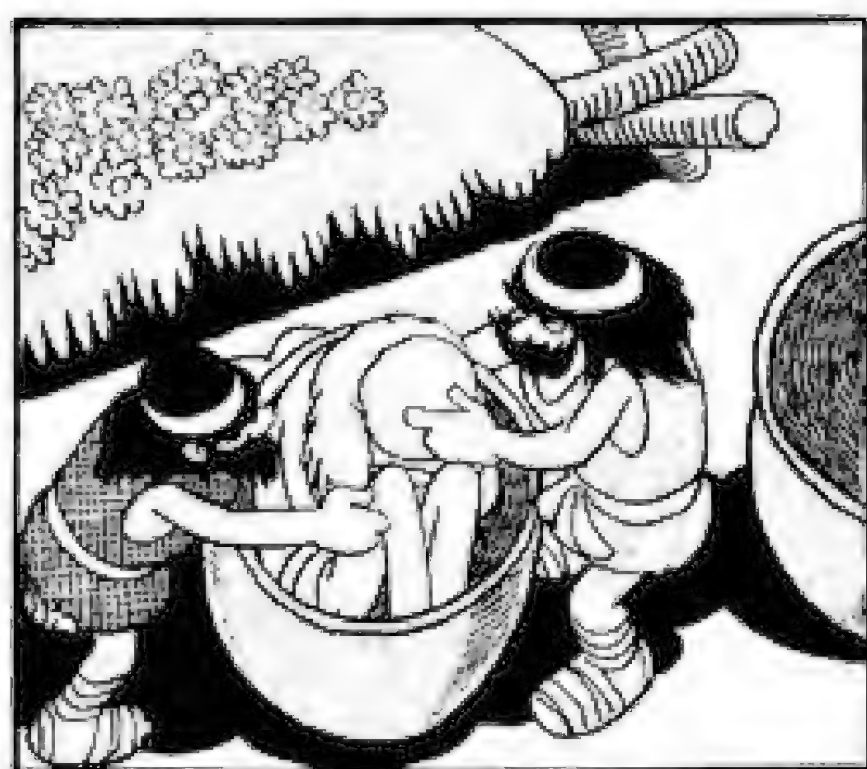
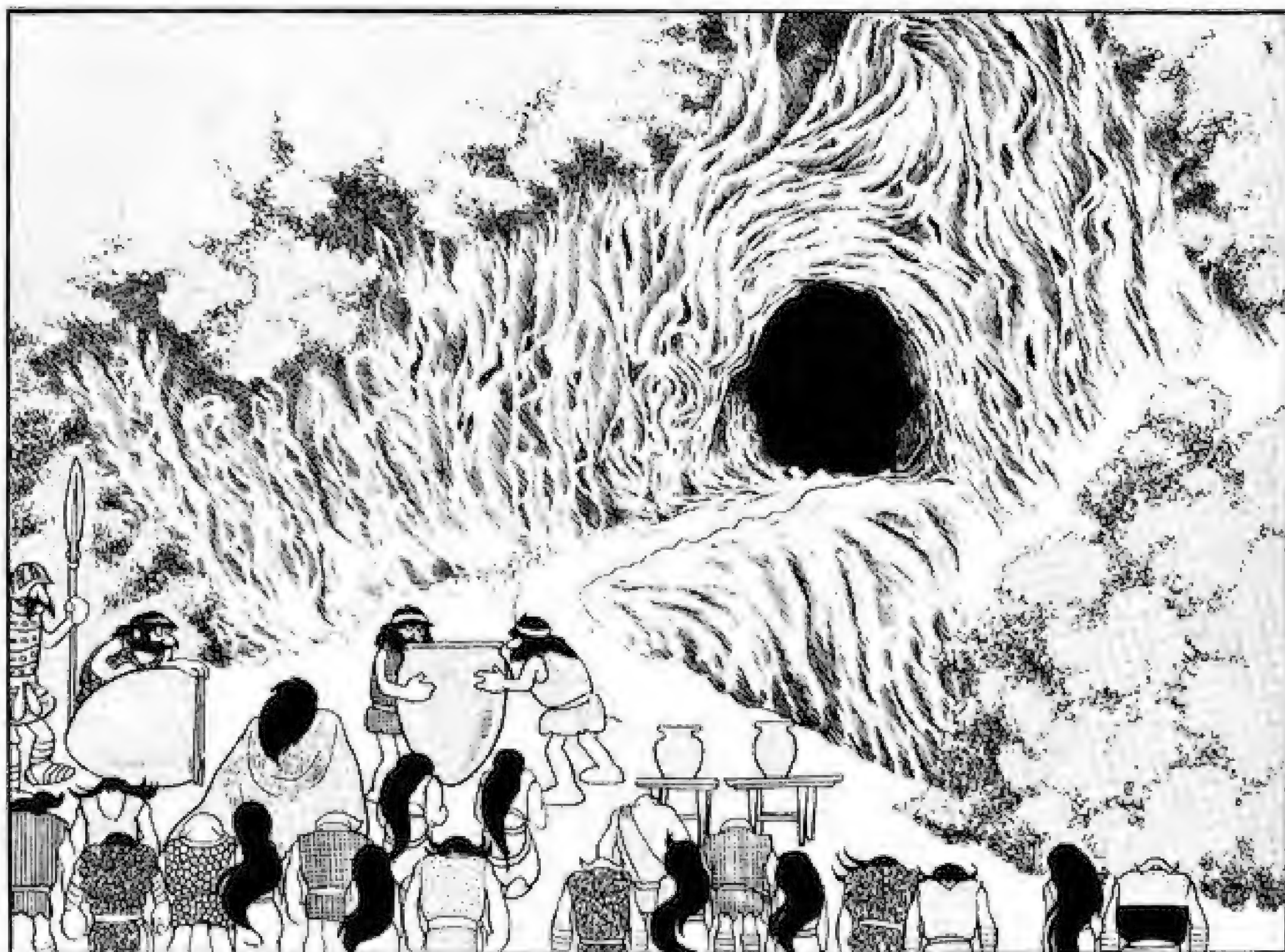


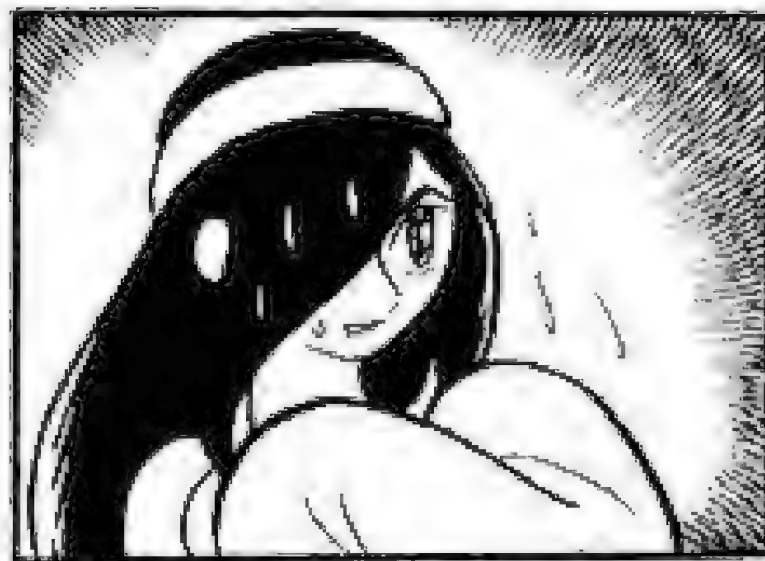
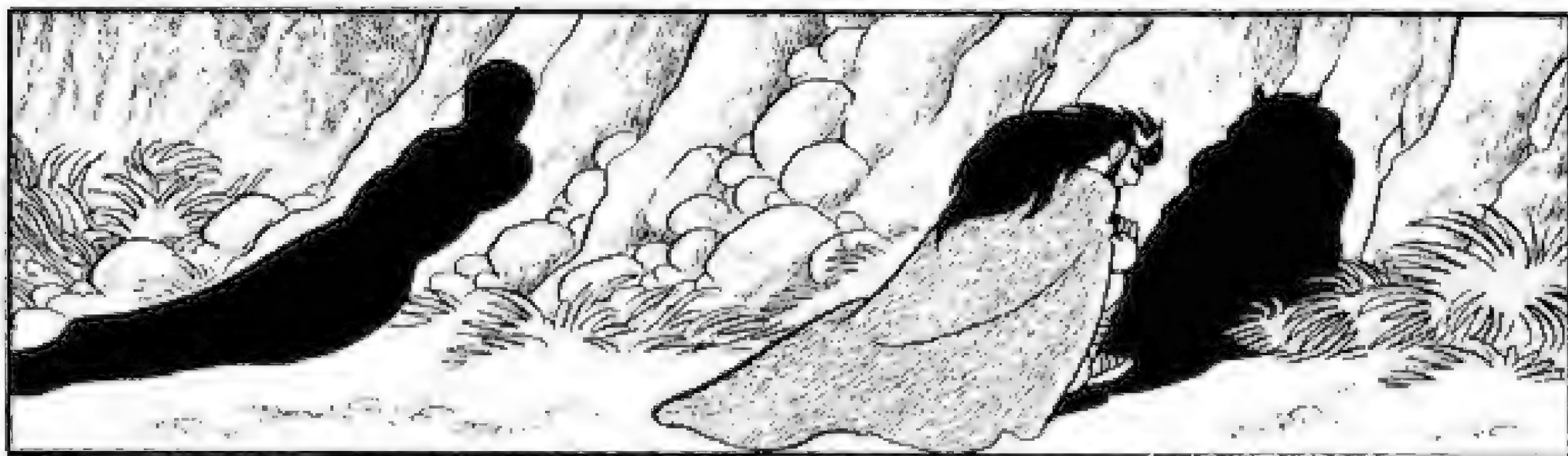


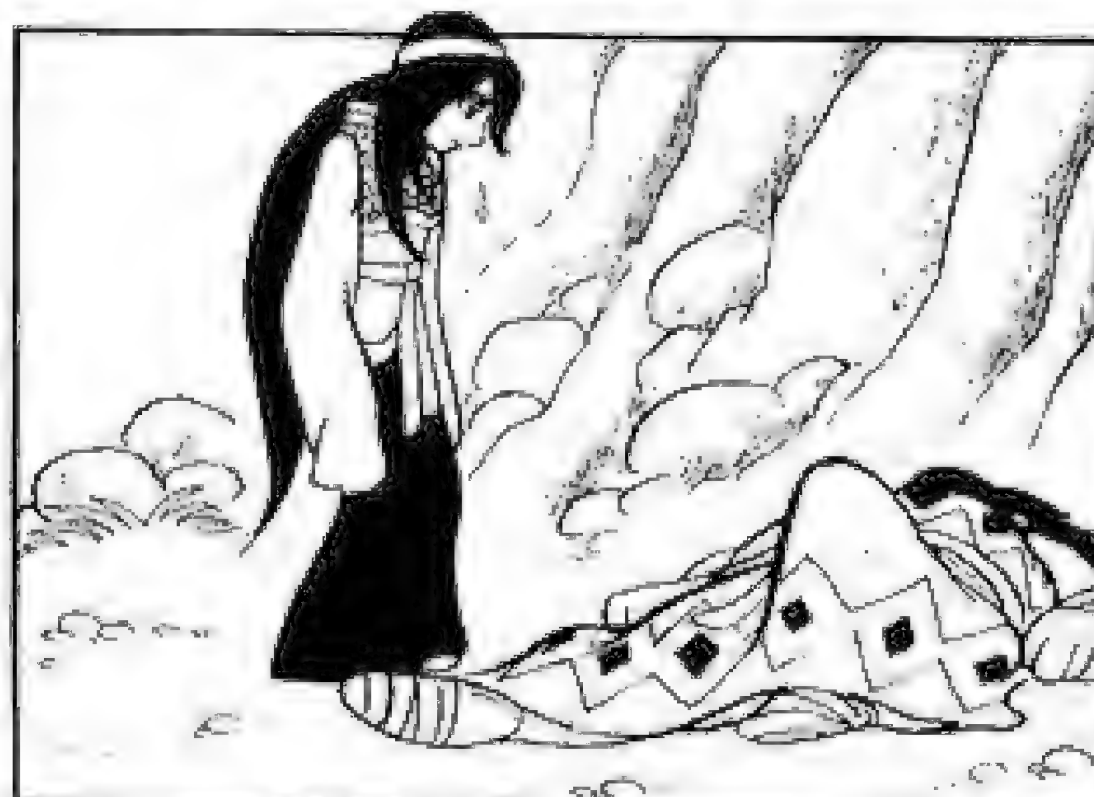


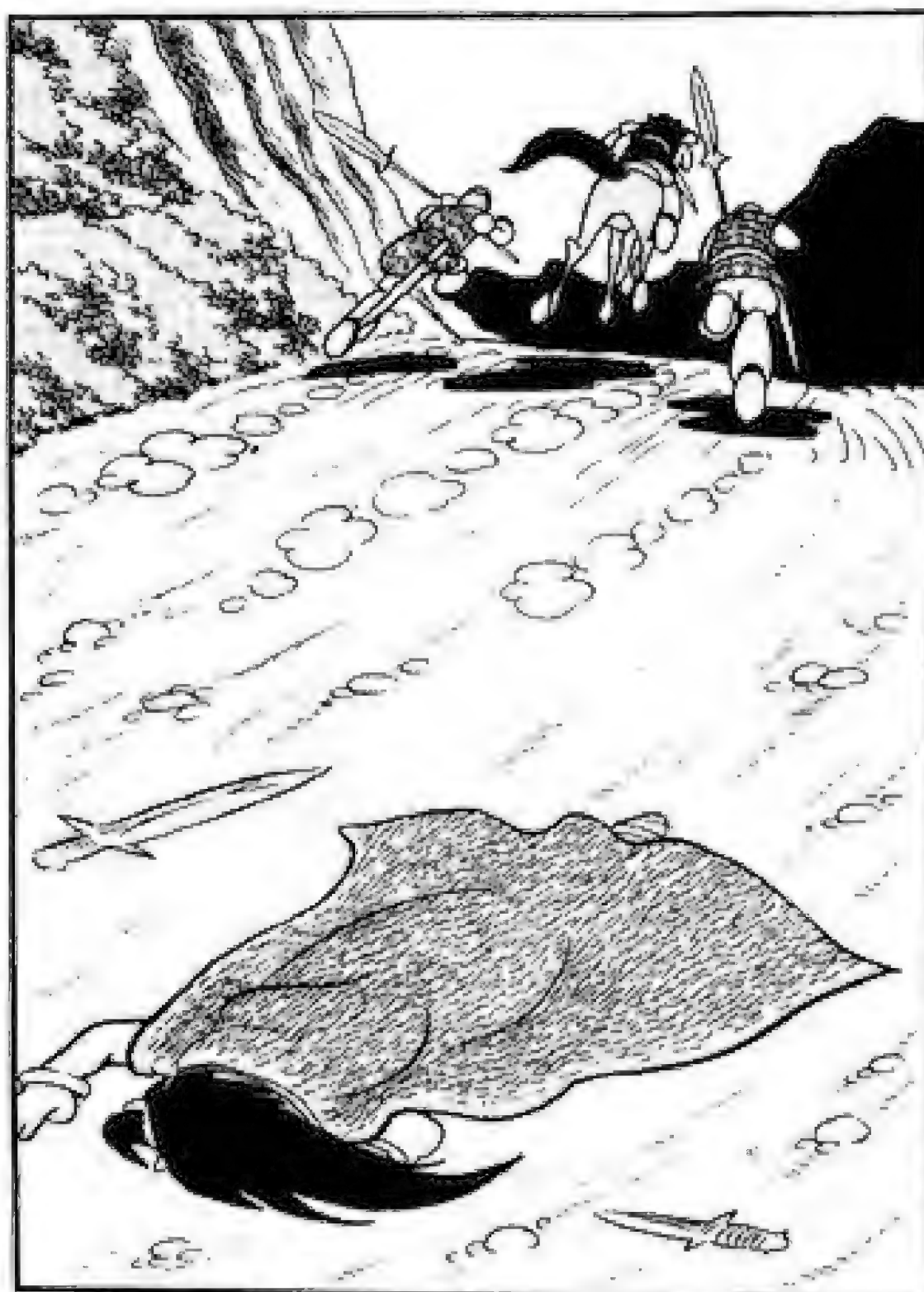
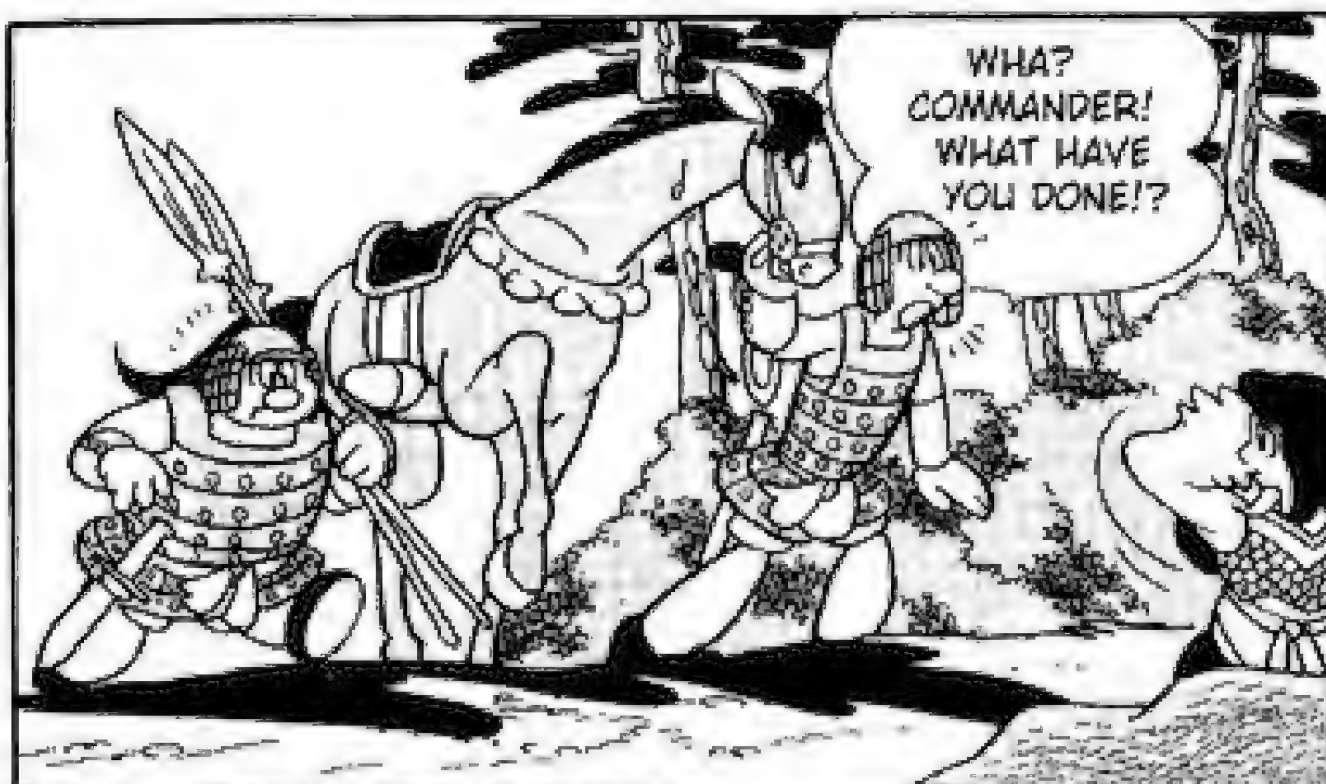


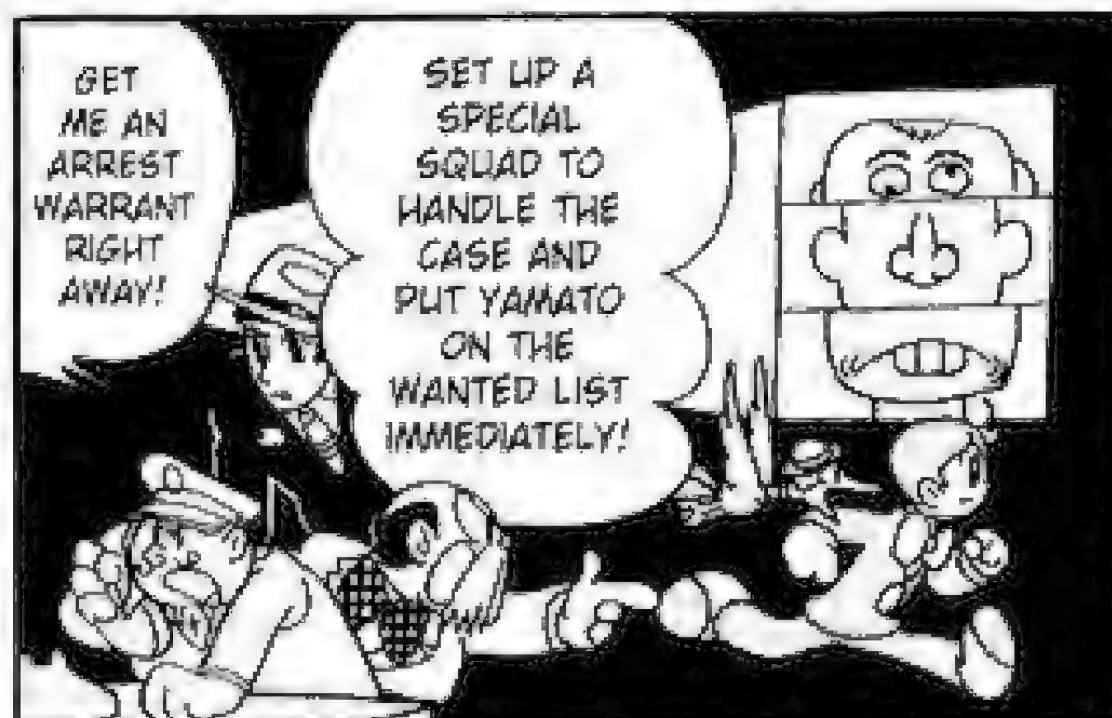
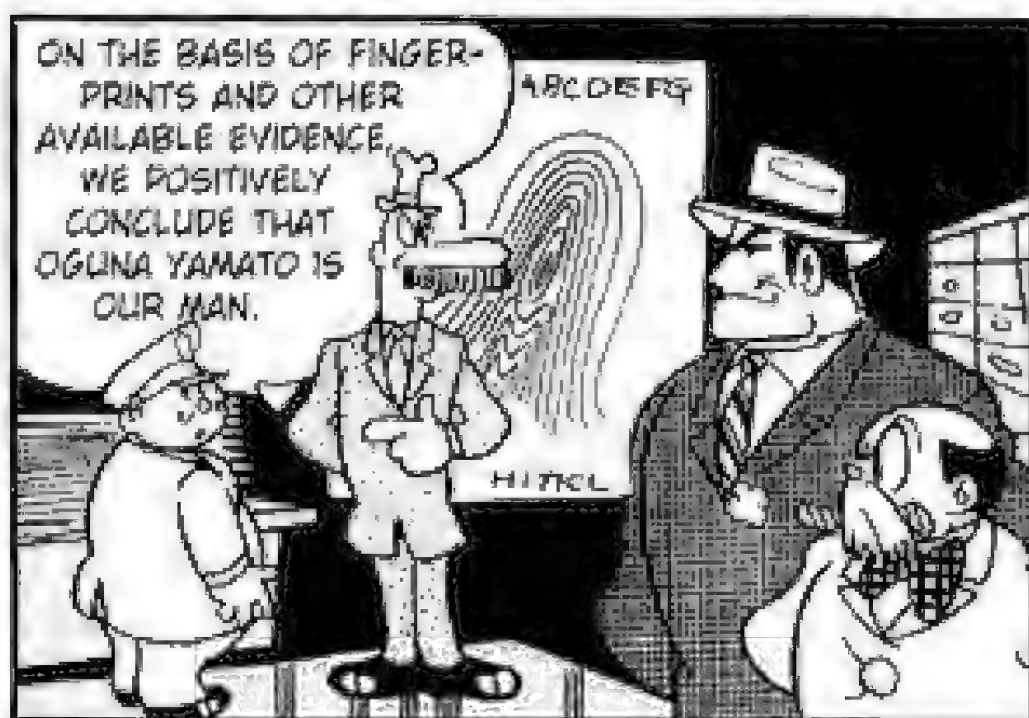


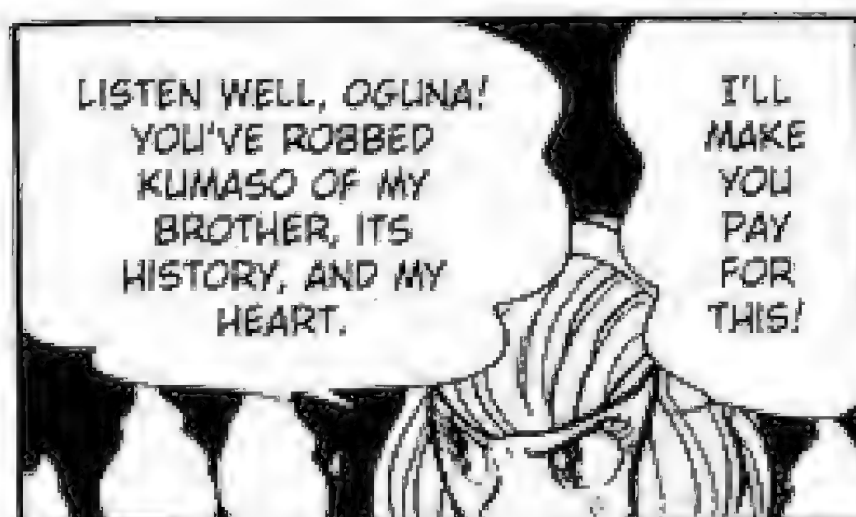




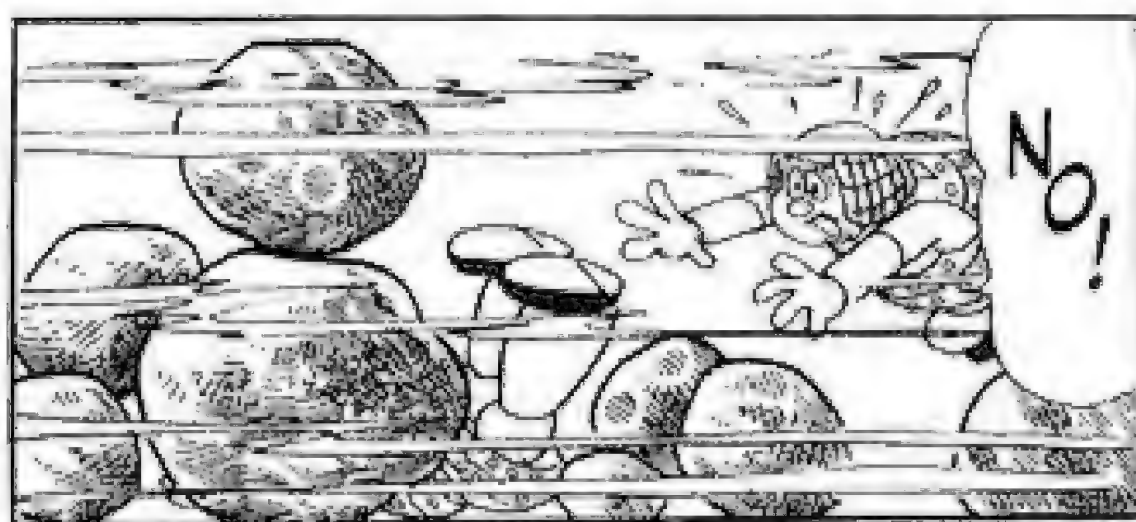
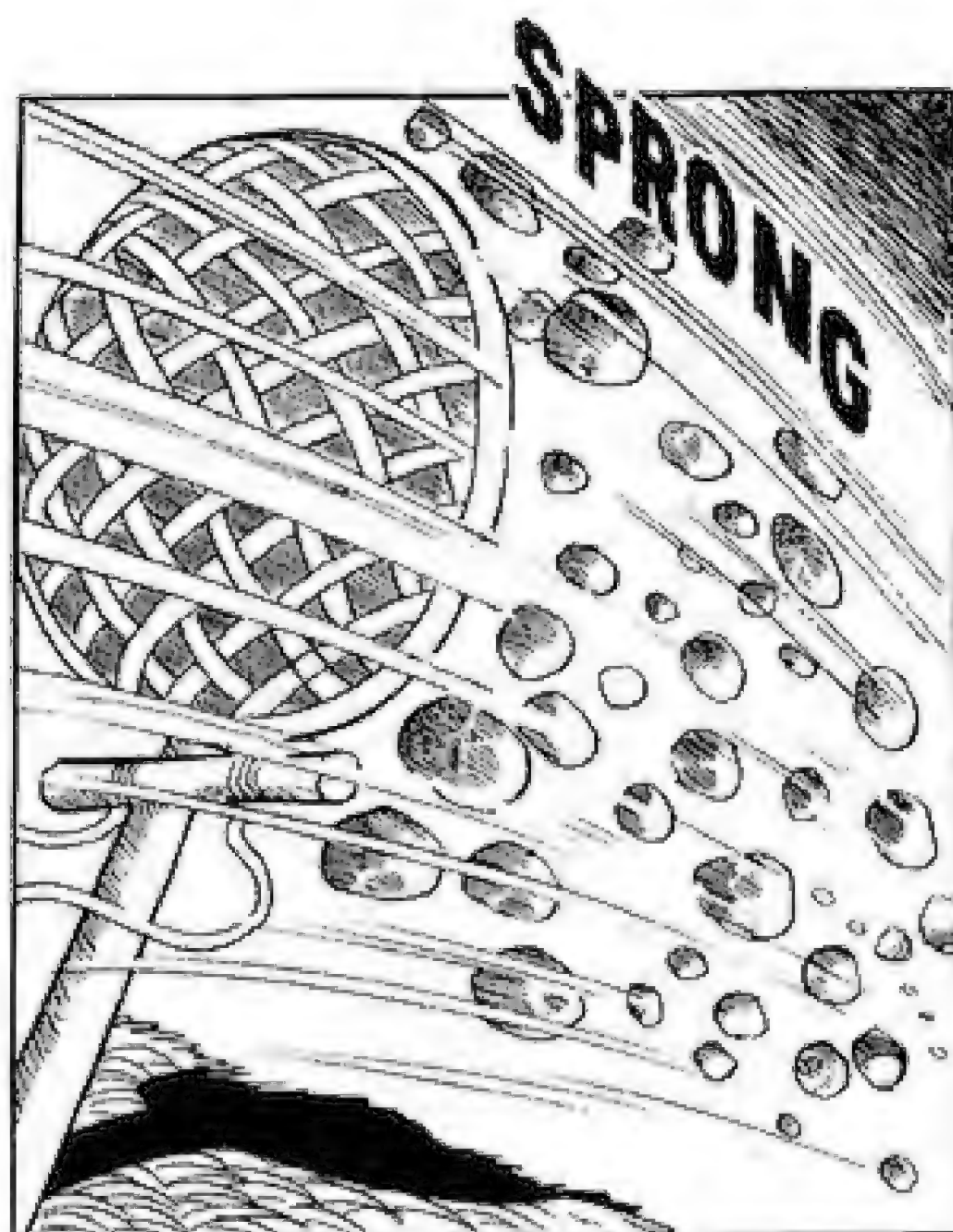


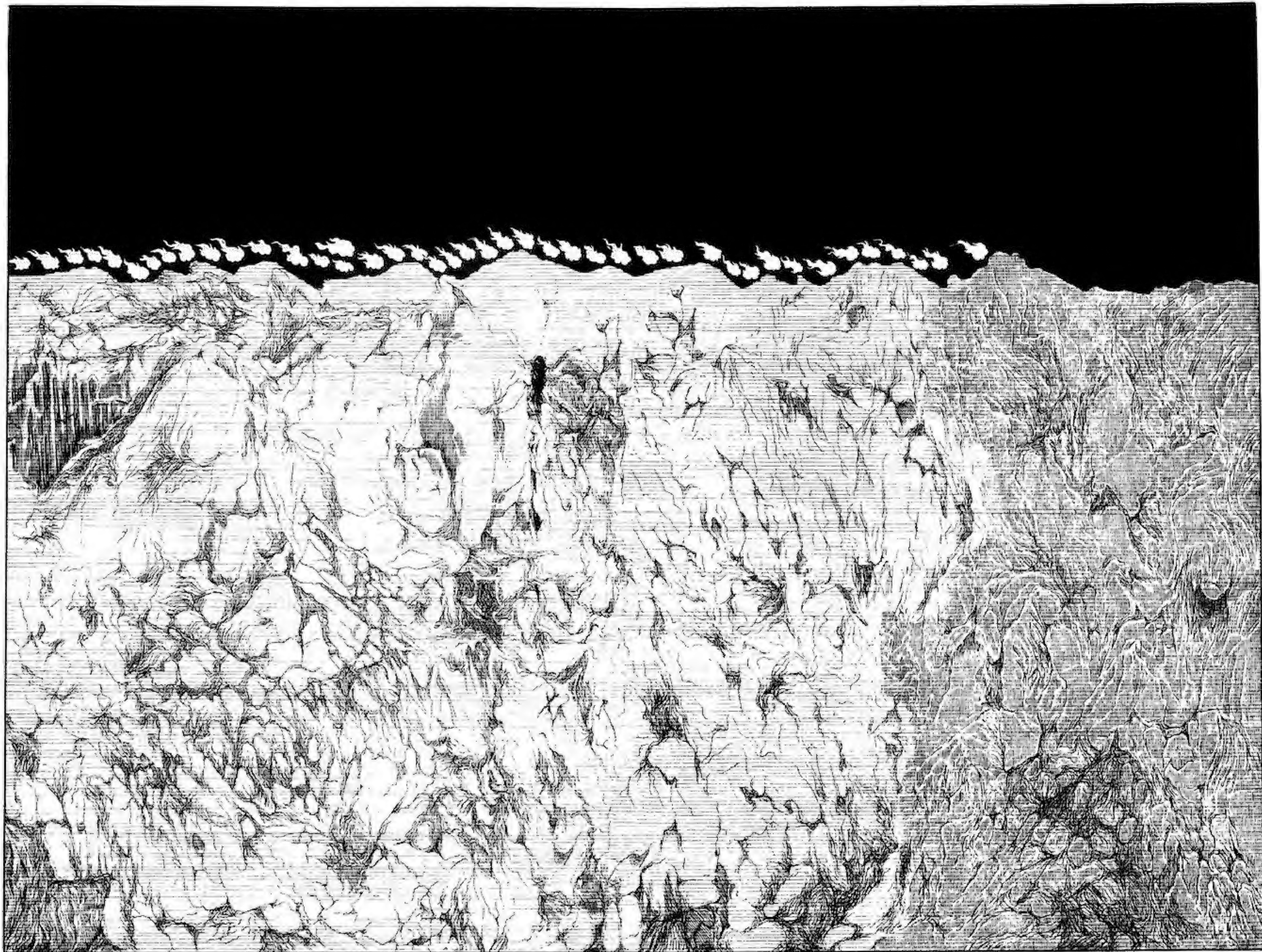


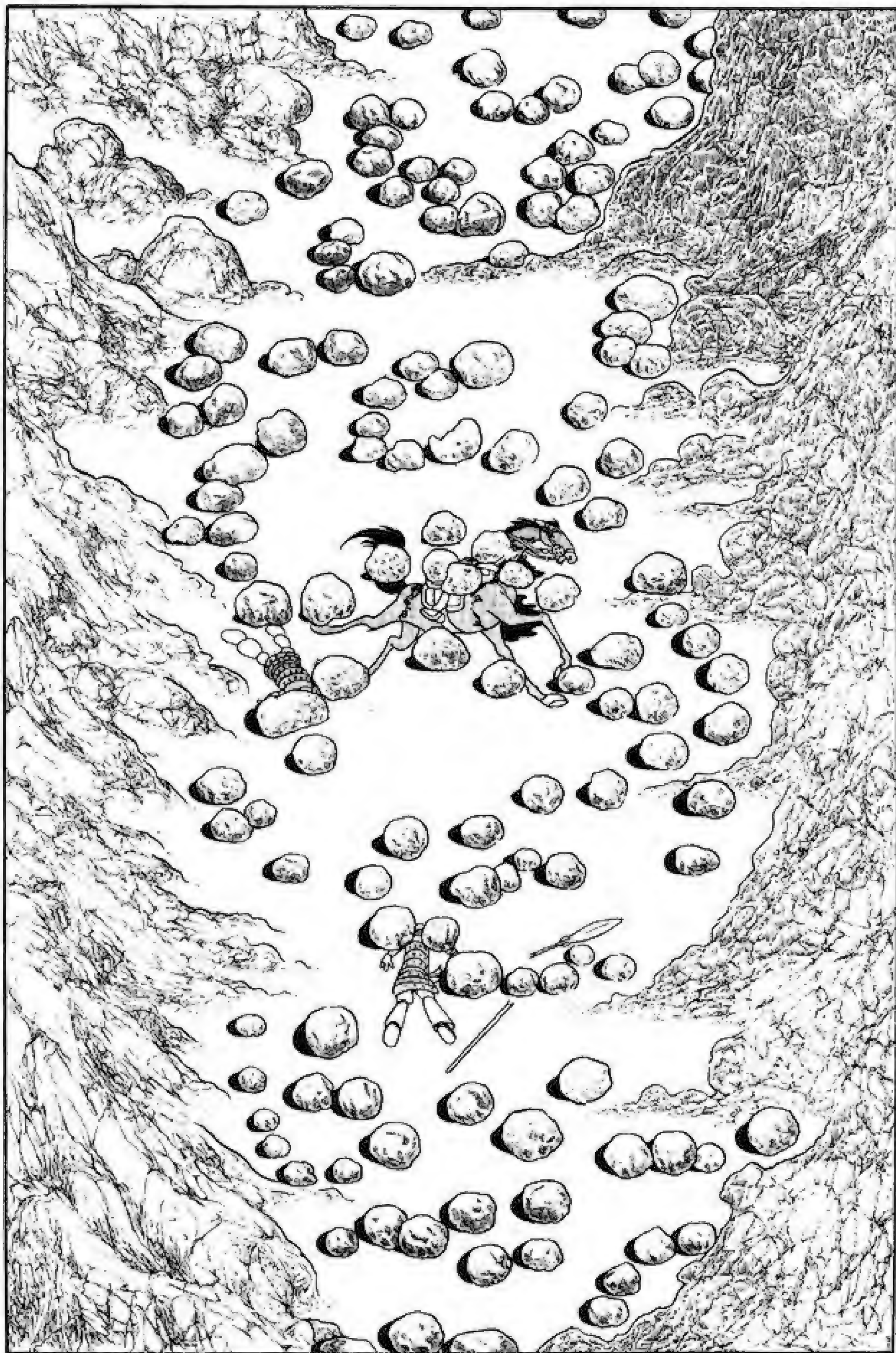


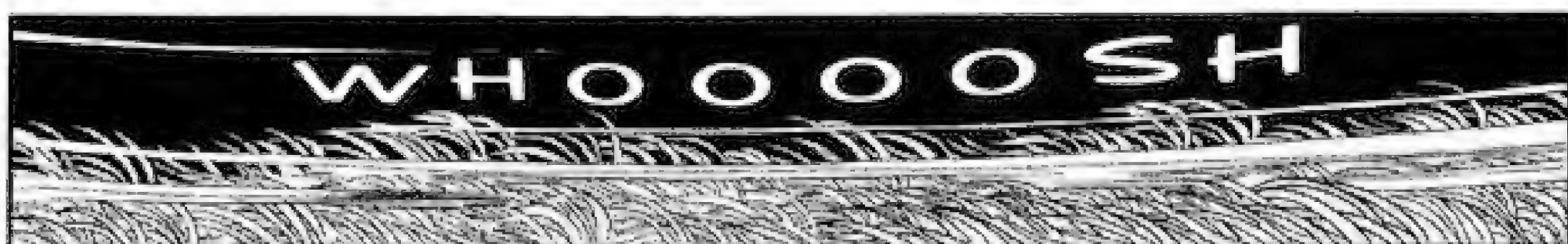
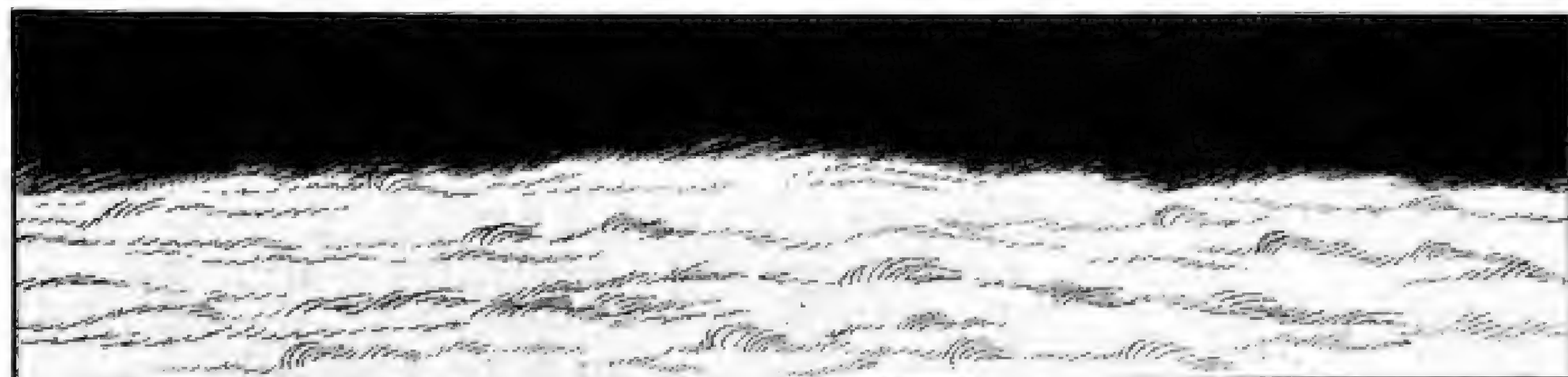
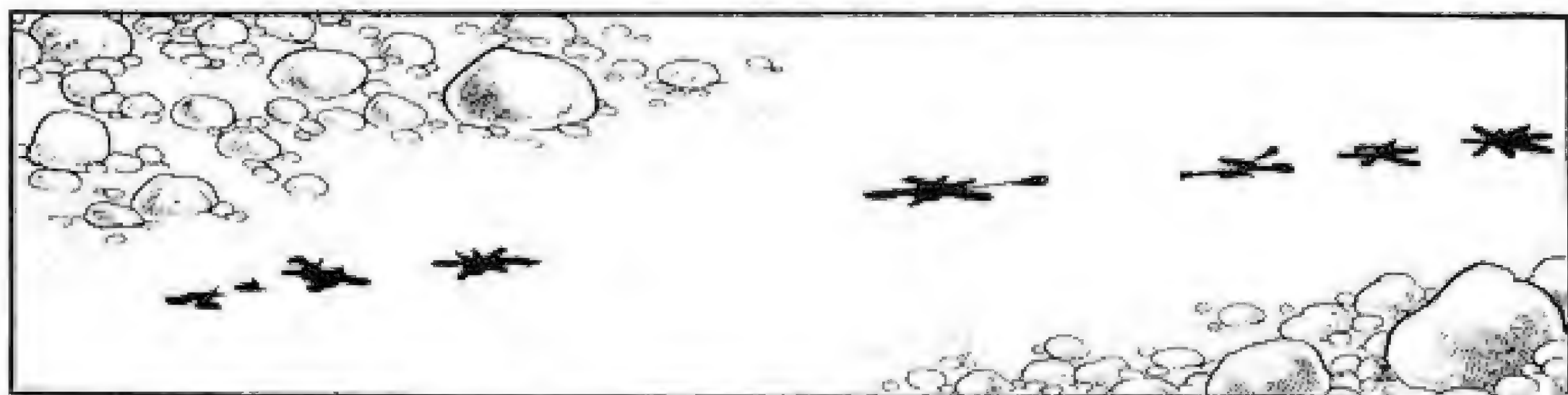


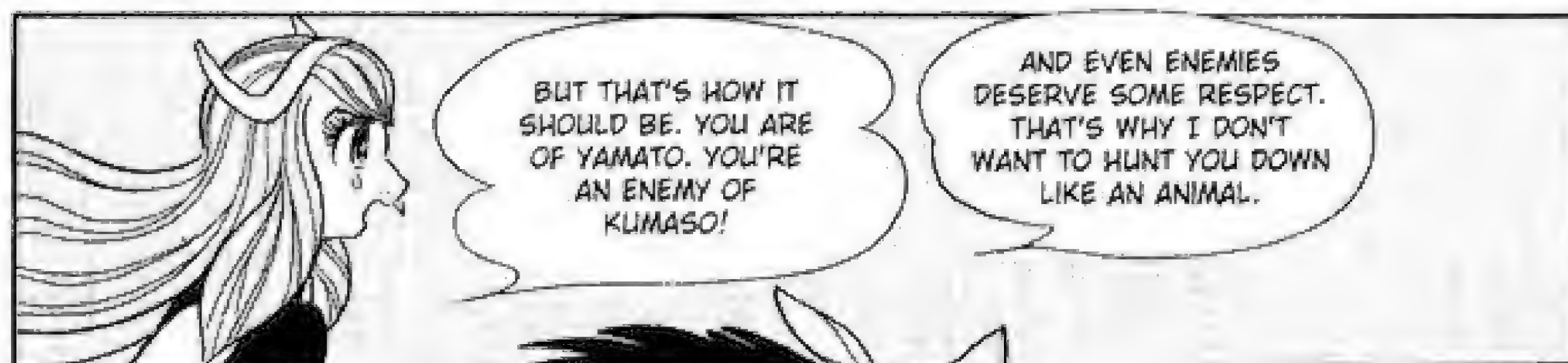


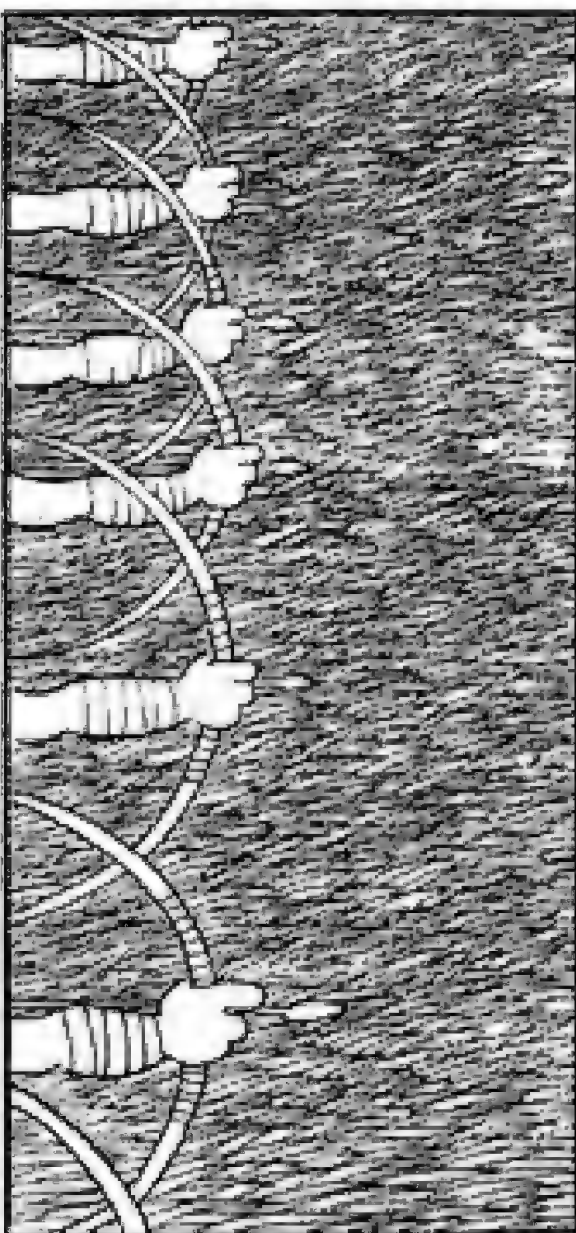
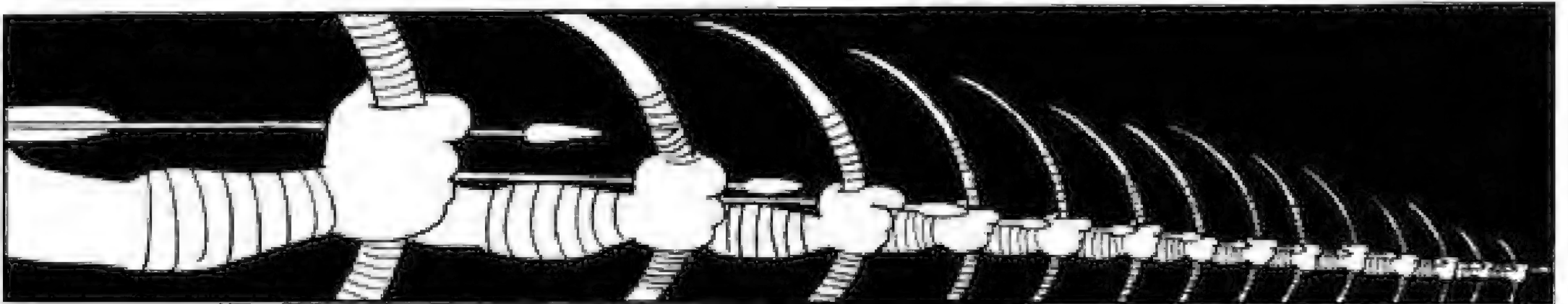


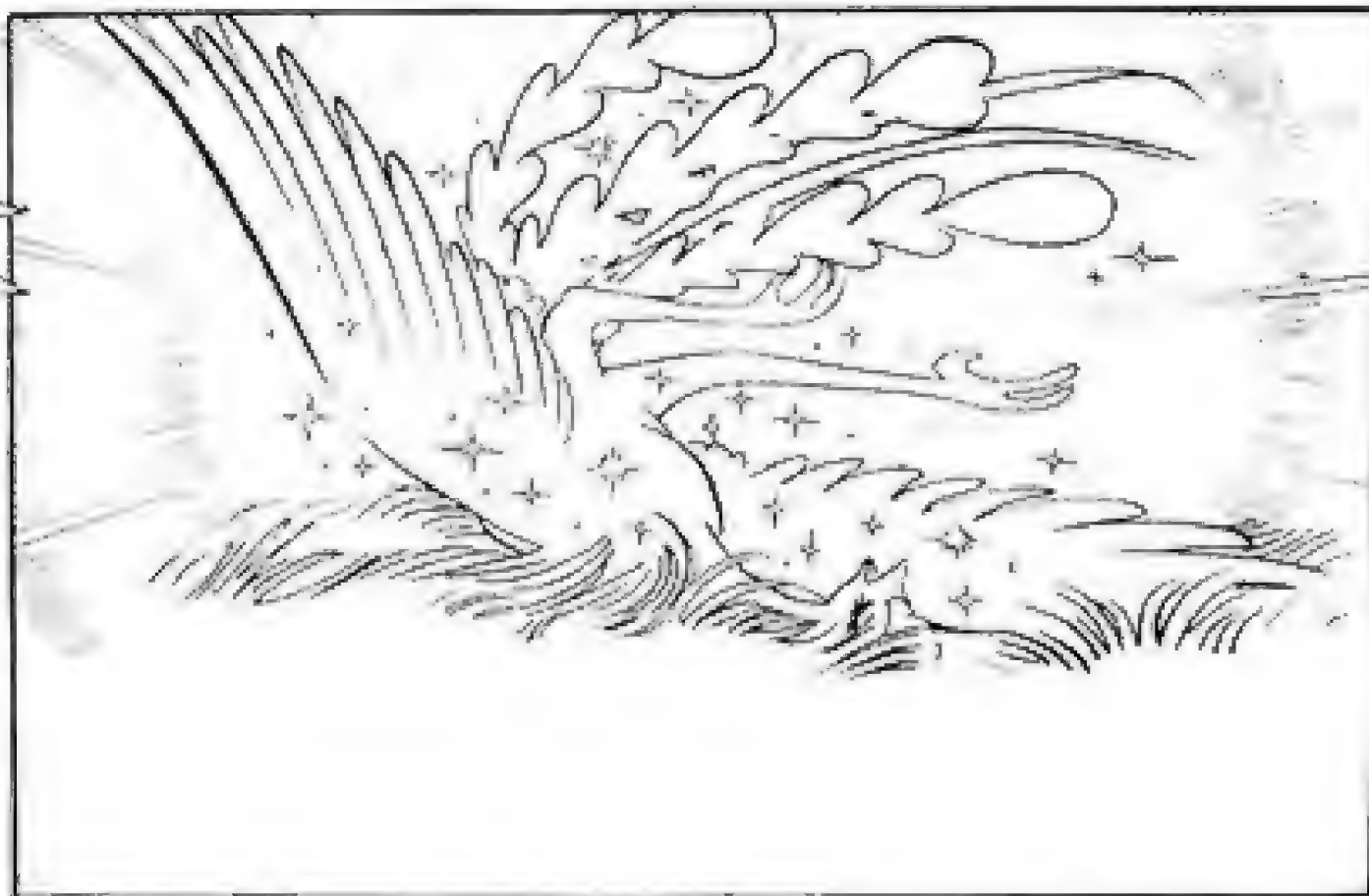
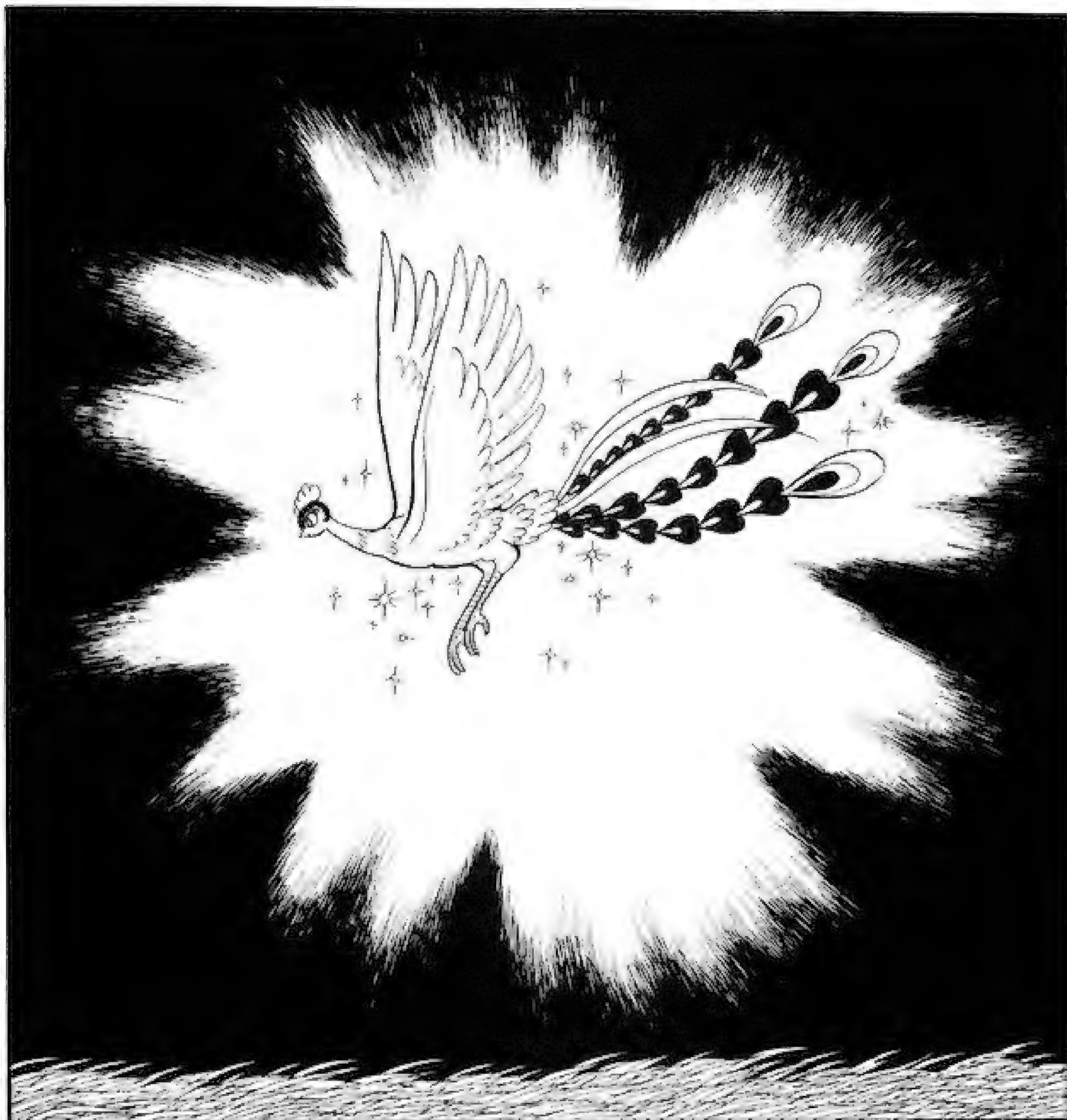


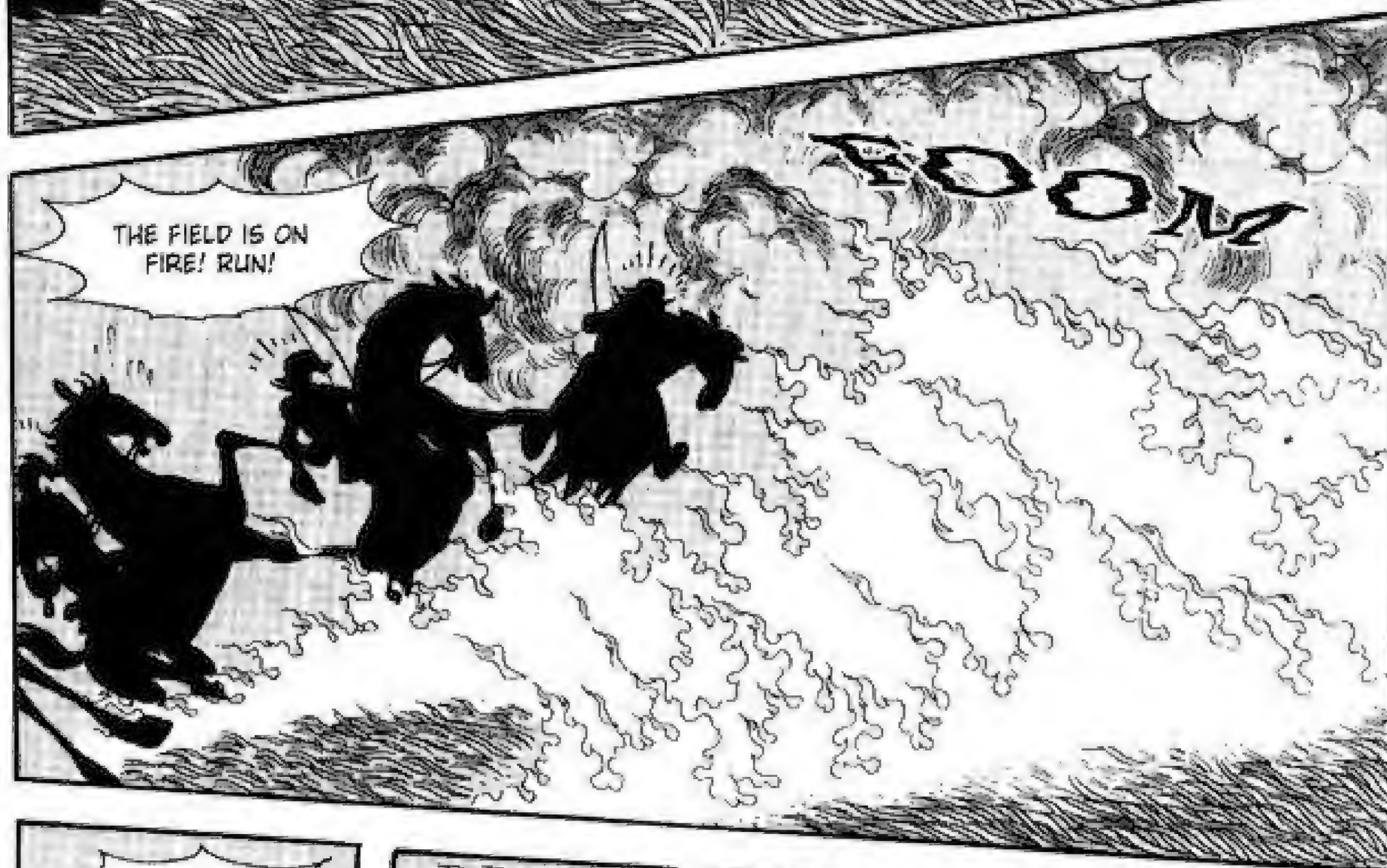
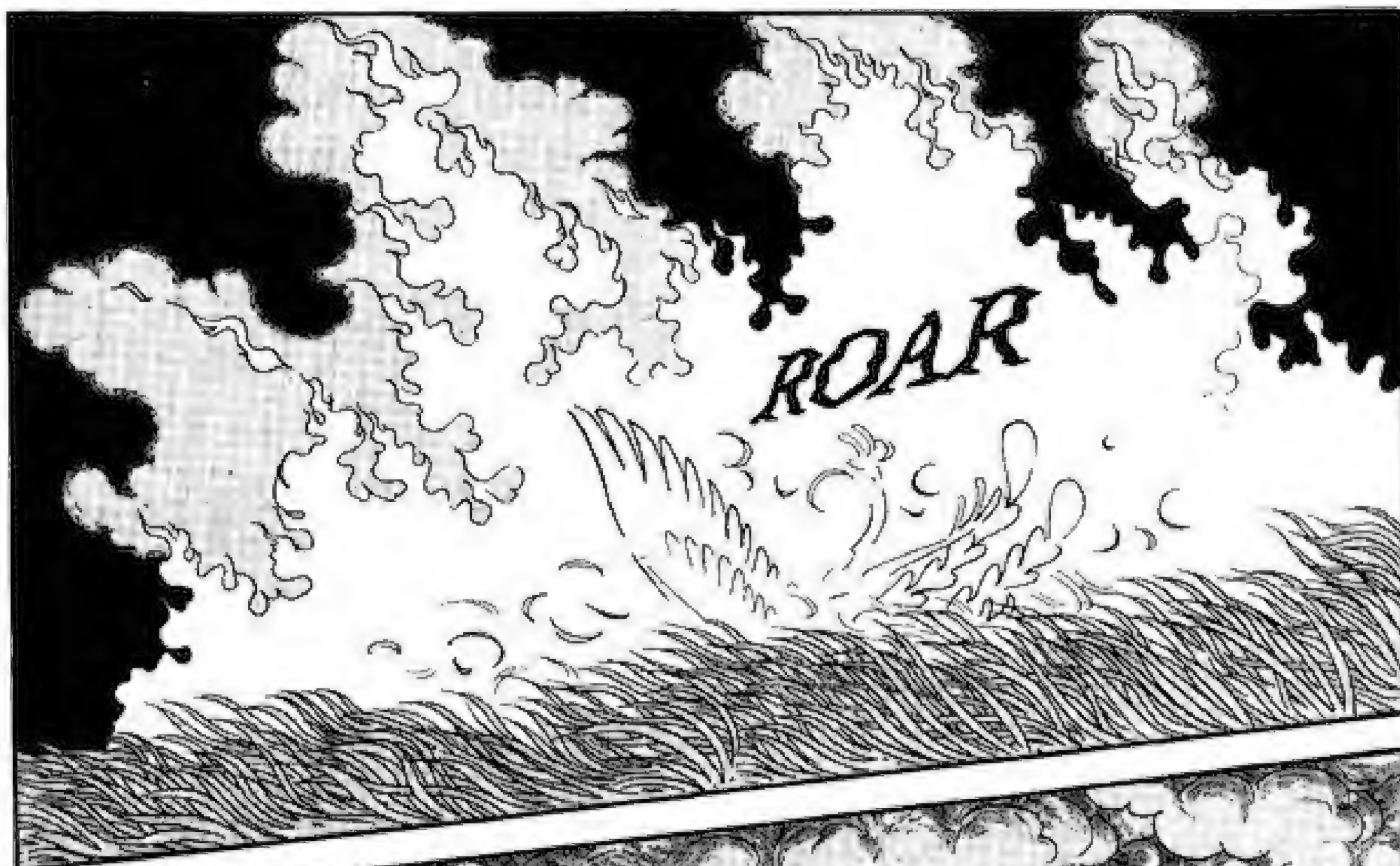


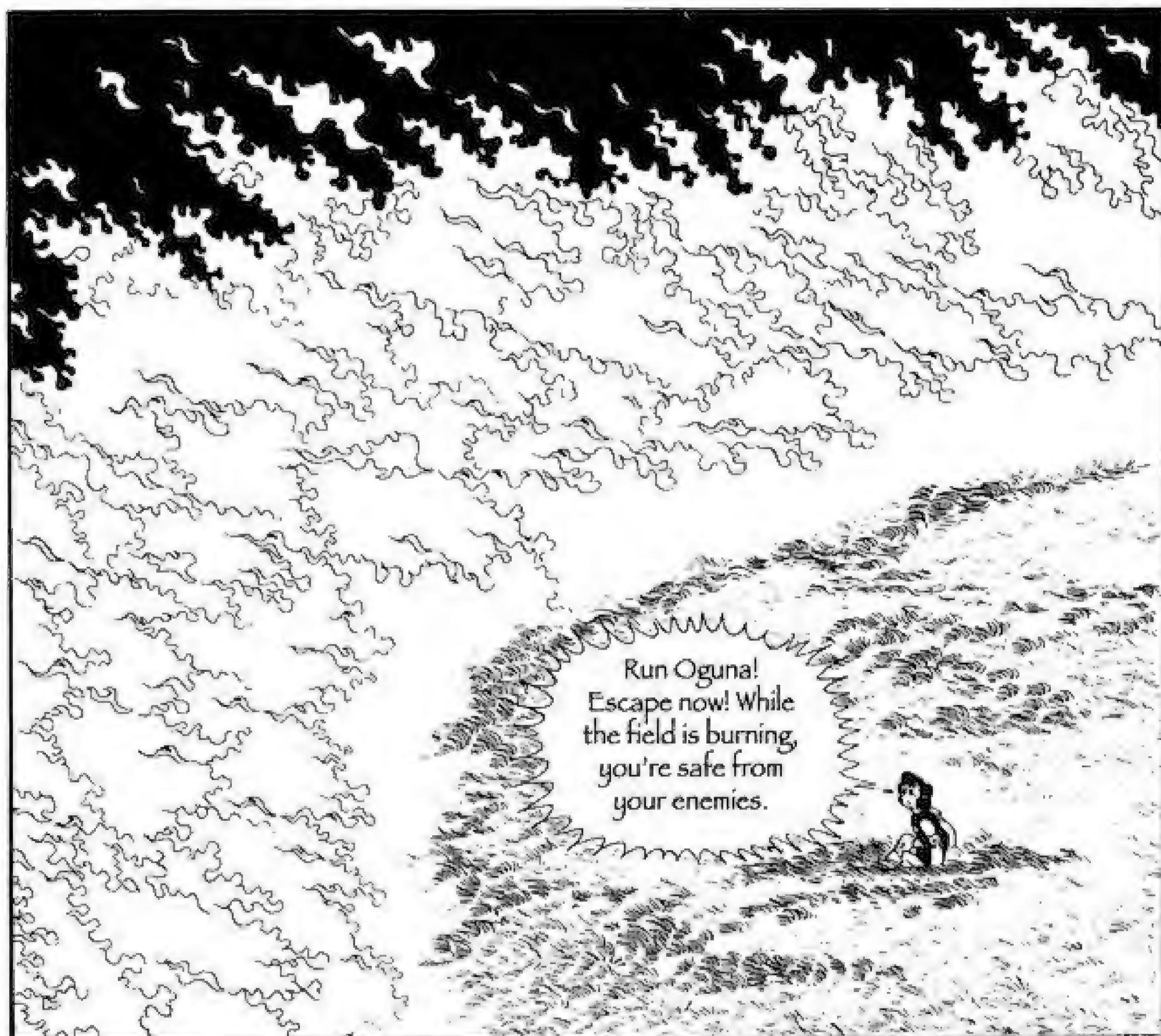












Run Oguna!
Escape now! While
the field is burning,
you're safe from
your enemies.

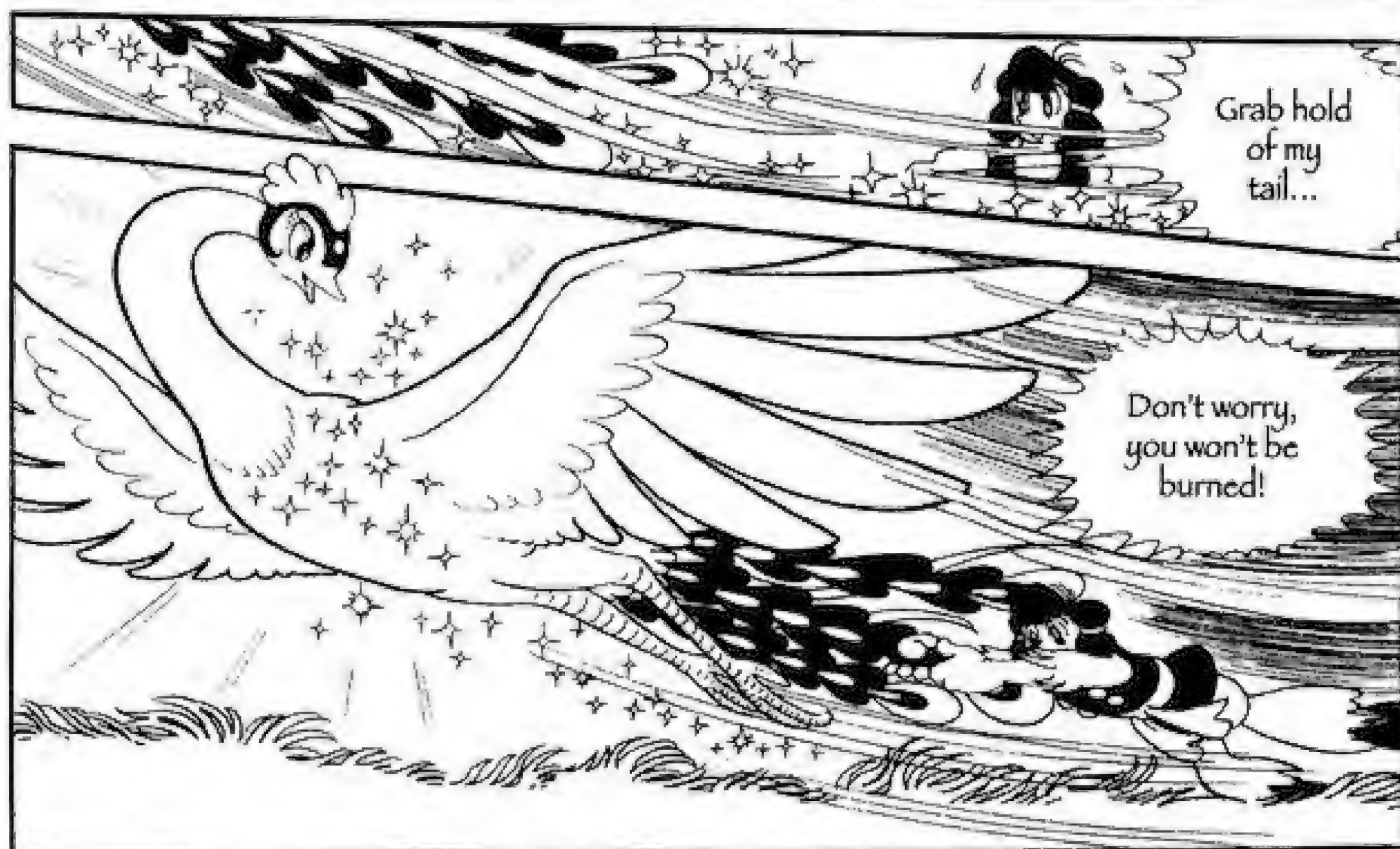
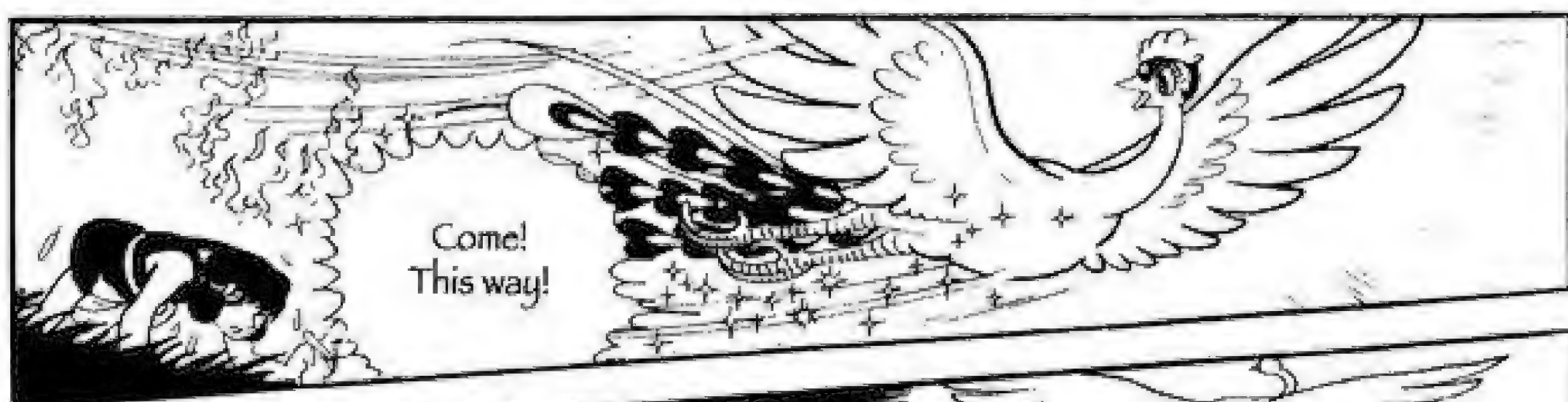
BUT...WHY
ARE YOU
HELPING ME?!

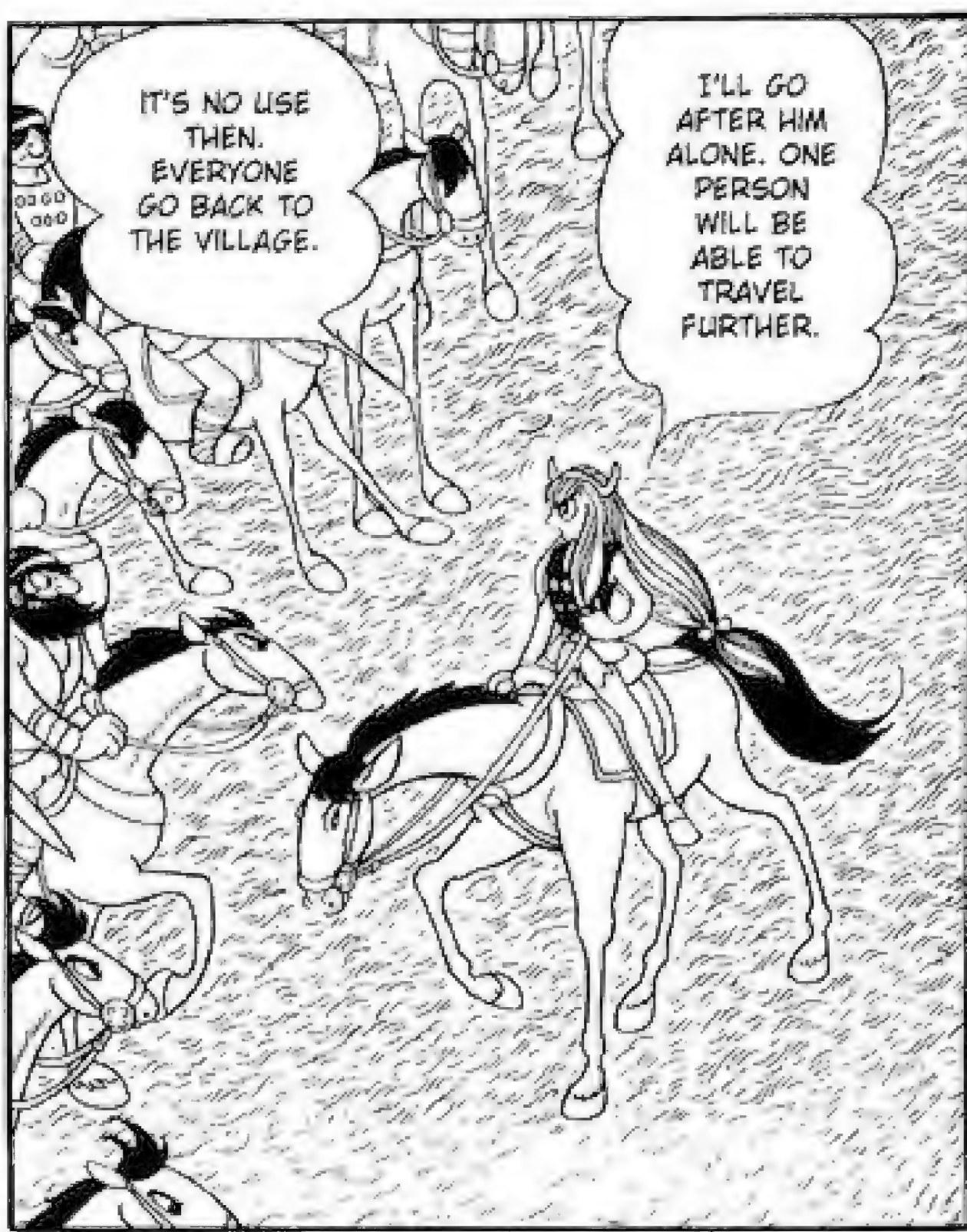
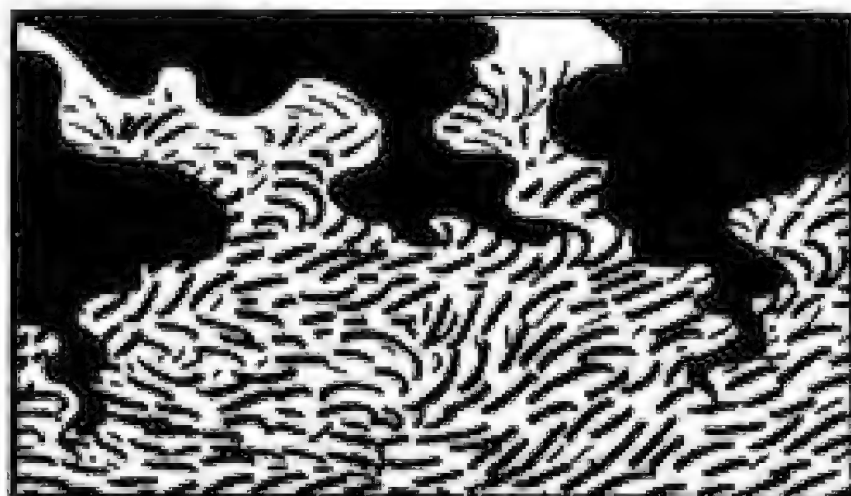
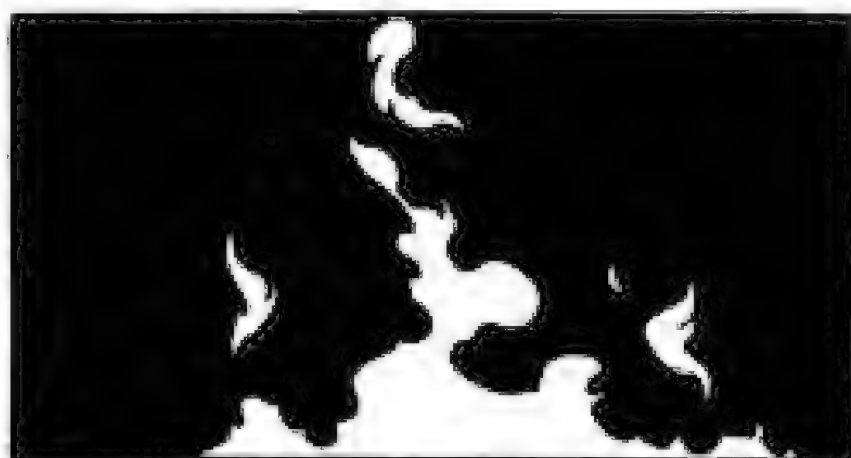
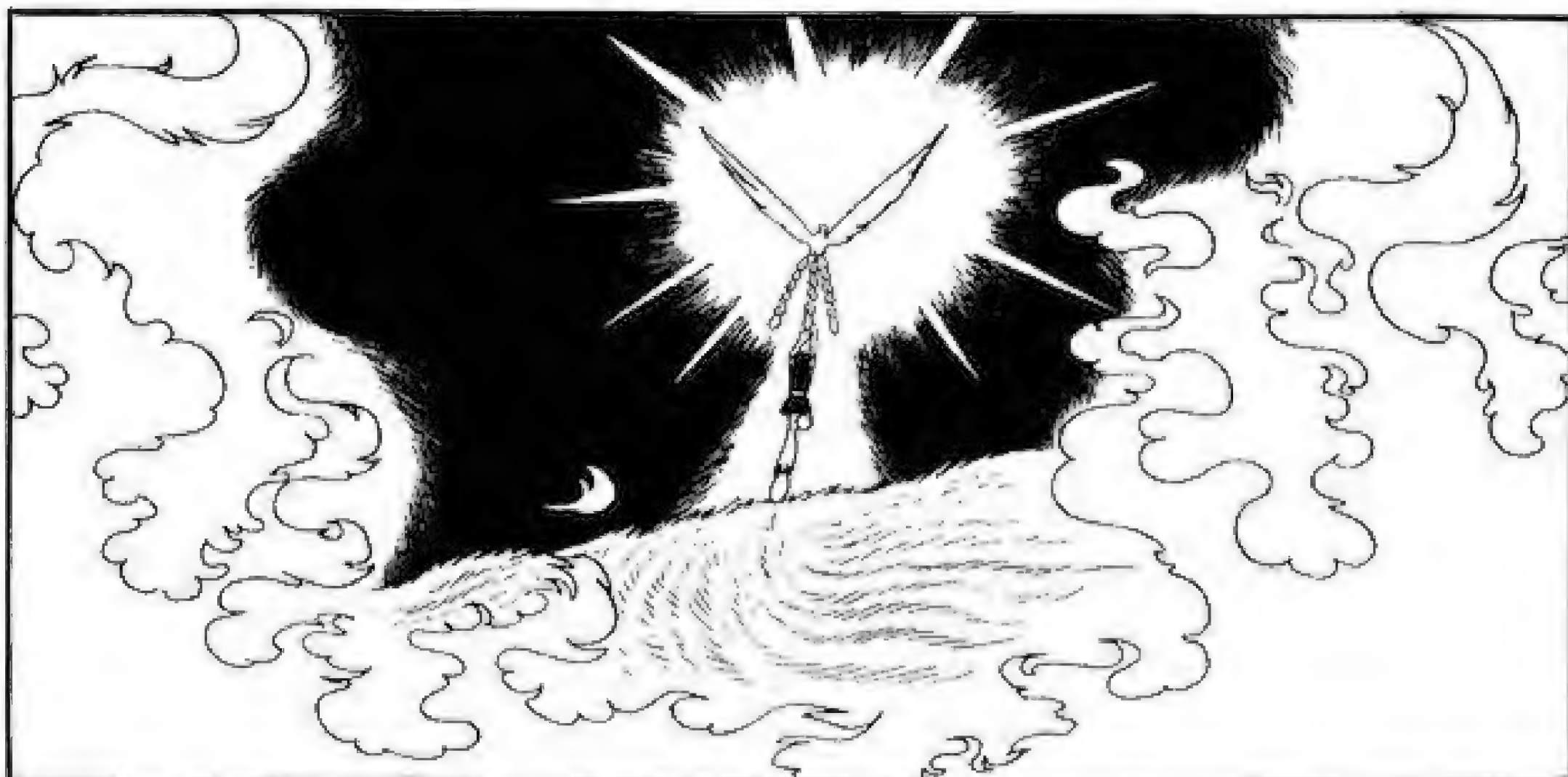


The fire is spreading to the
west! Run directly east!
Clear a path with your sword!

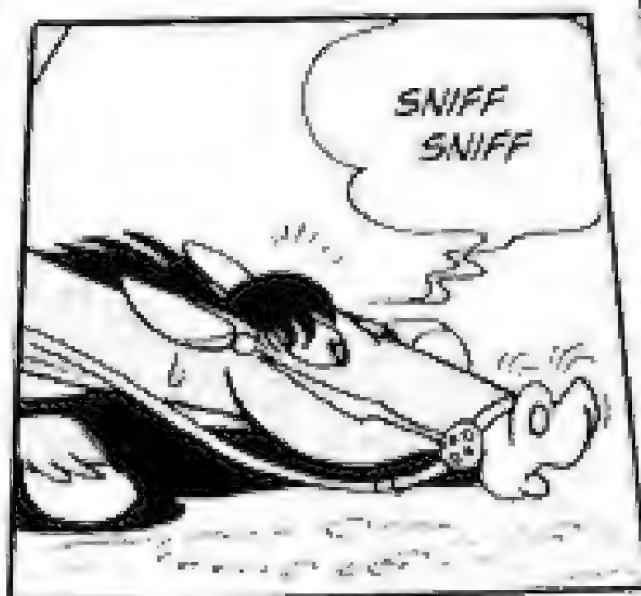
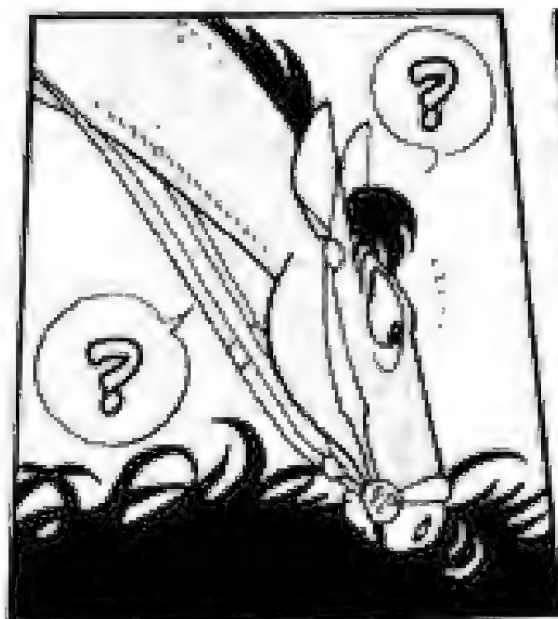
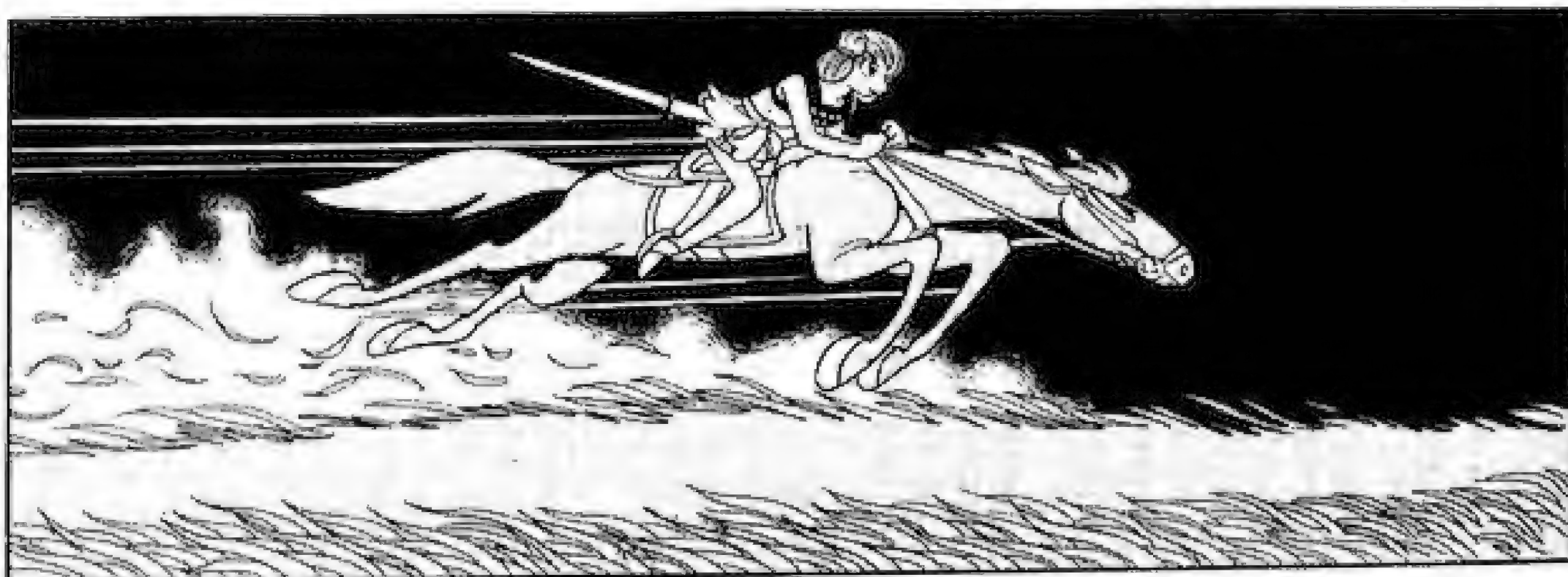
Quickly!















DO YOU
REALLY
LIKE MY
MUSIC?!

IS THAT
WHY YOU
SAVED
ME?



I
COMPOSED
THIS SONG
TWO YEARS
AGO...
FOR MYSELF
REALLY...
A FRIEND OF
MINE HAD
DIED
SUDDENLY
ONE
SUMMER
DAY...

HE WAS
A FINE
PERSON,
BUT WAS
KILLED BY
THE SOLDIERS
WHEN WE
WERE DEMON-
STRATING
AGAINST MY
FATHER'S
STUPID PLAN
TO BUILD A
MAUSOLEUM
FOR HIMSELF.
IT HAPPENED
RIGHT
BEFORE MY
EYES.



I WAS SO
SHOCKED I
WANTED TO
CRY, BUT I
COULDN'T...IT
SEEMED THAT
PEOPLE ARE
KILLED TOO
EASILY...
AND I BECAME
ANGERED
RATHER THAN
SAD...
THAT'S WHEN
I THOUGHT
OF THIS
SONG...



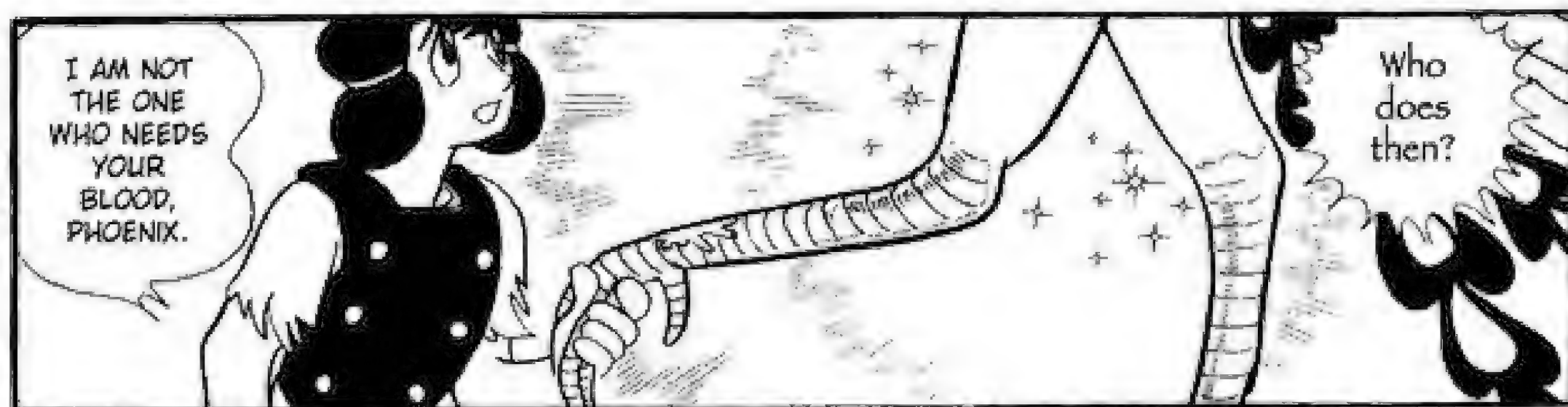
Thank
you,
Oguna.

You have
pleased me
greatly with your
music...what
should I do for
you in return?

Do you wish
to drink my
blood?

Go ahead...
isn't this
what you
desire?

I have never
given this to any
human before.
Take it as an
expression of my
gratitude.





Now is not the
time. She
thinks only of
killing you.



Come!



There's a boat
hidden behind
that crag over
there.

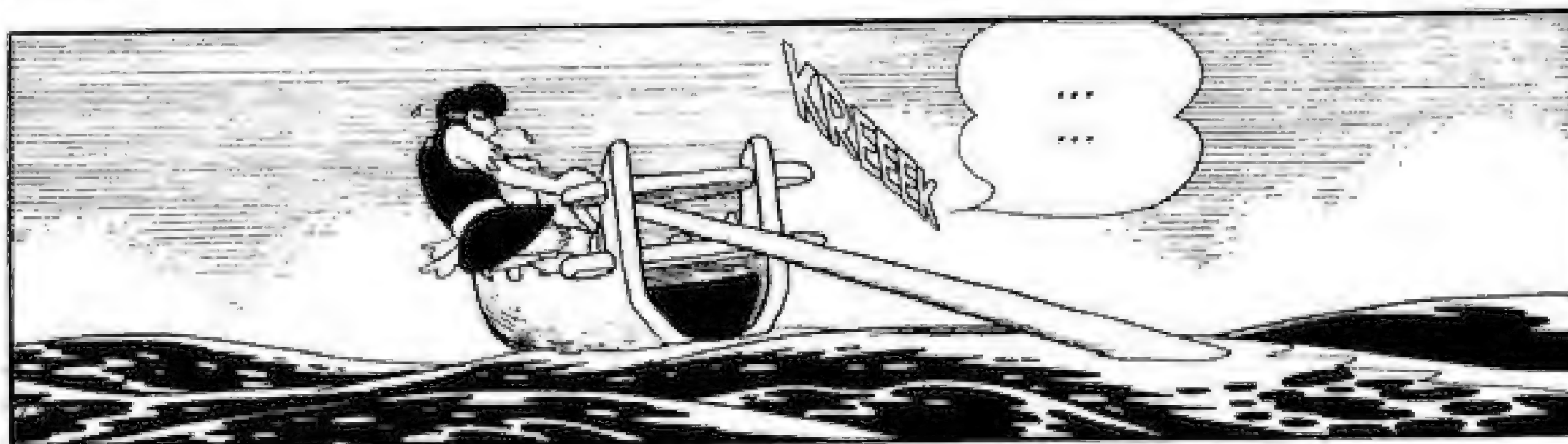


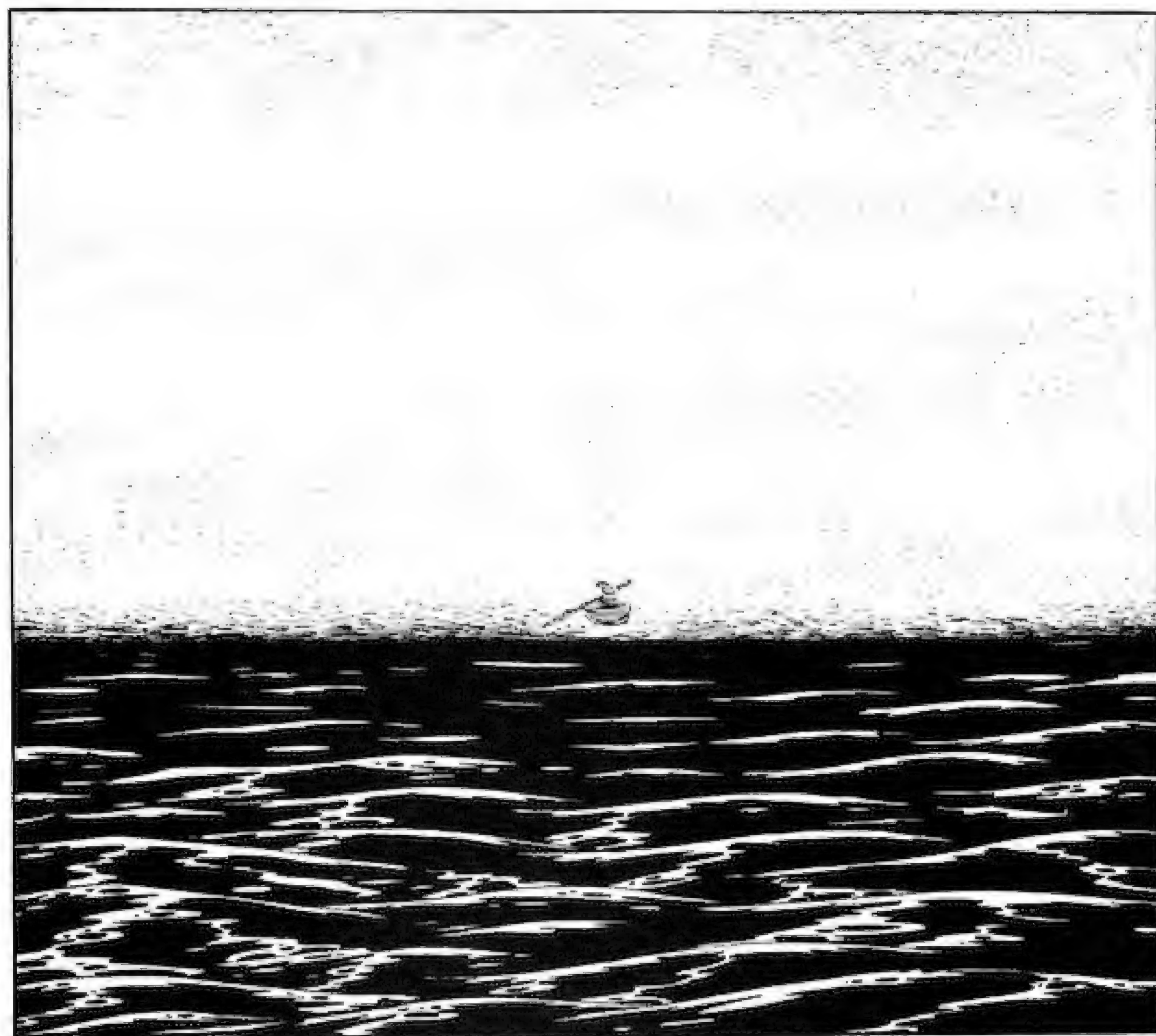
Use
this to
escape.



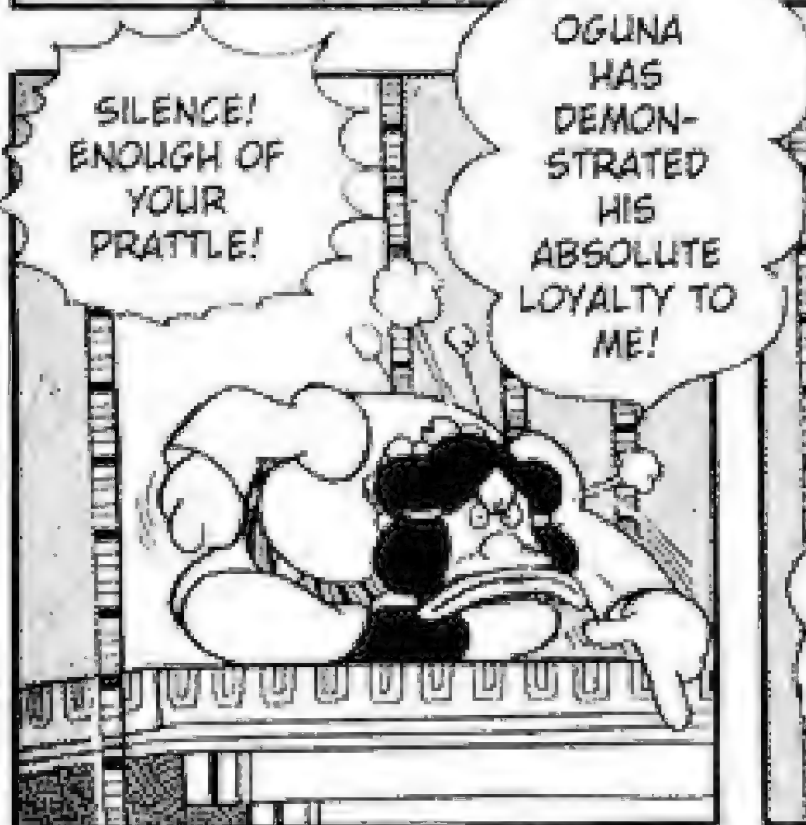
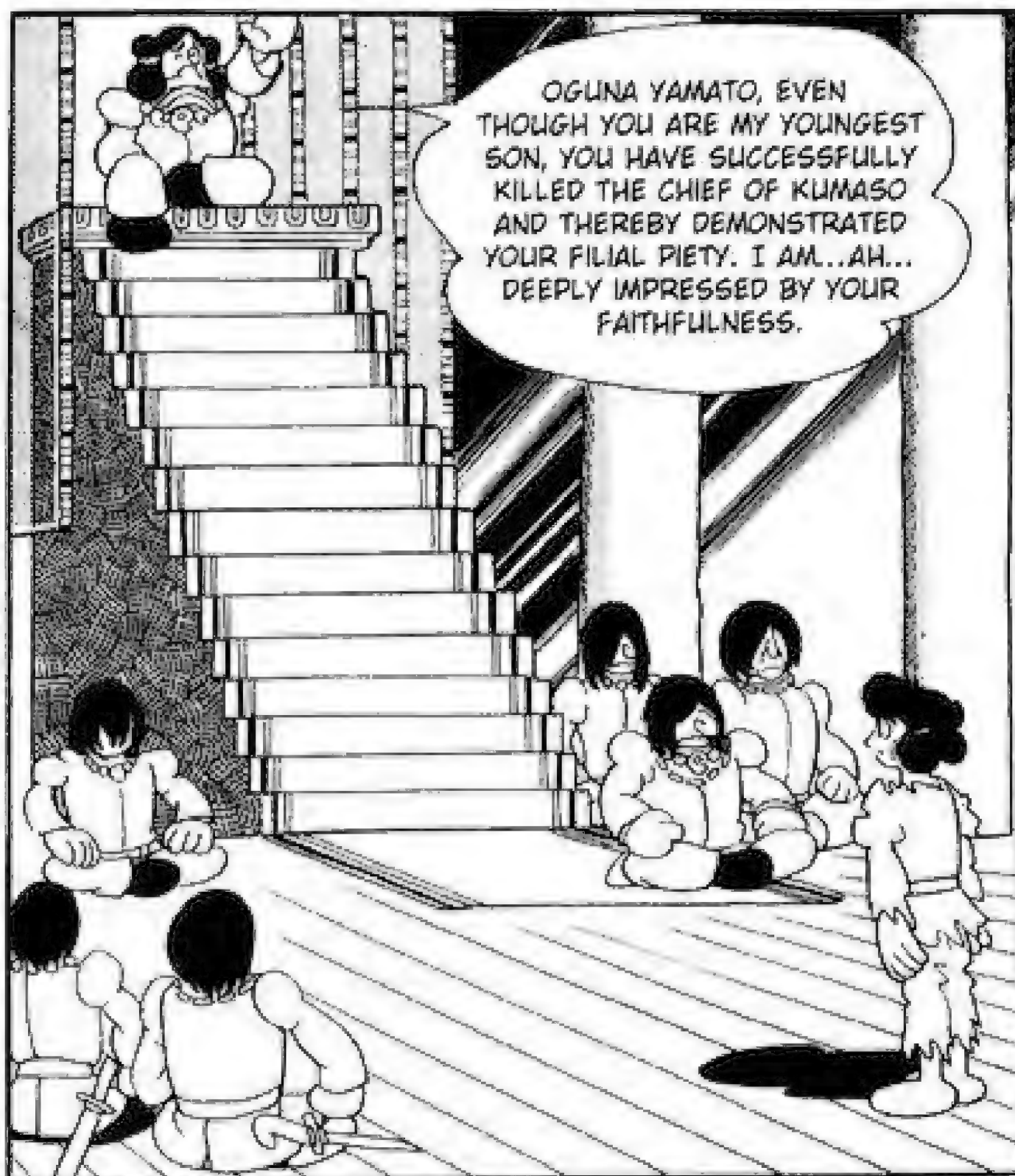
Row straight
east as far as
you can.

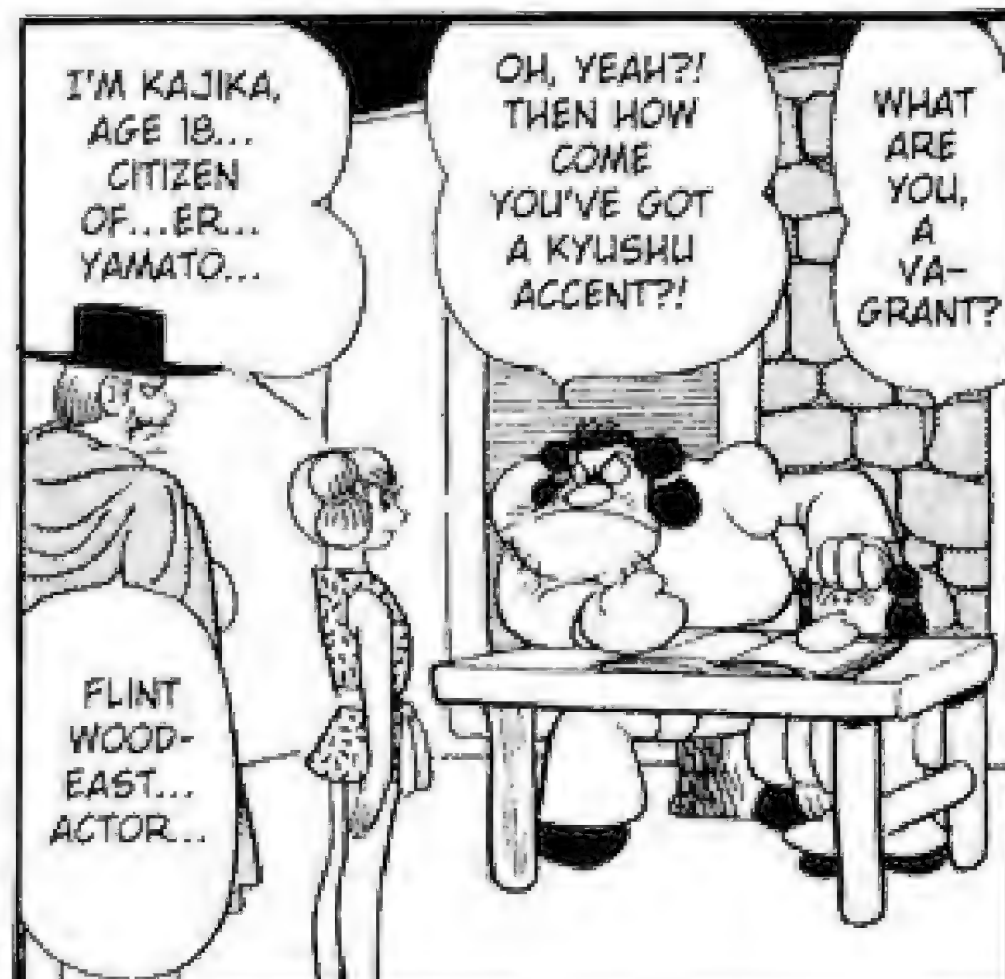
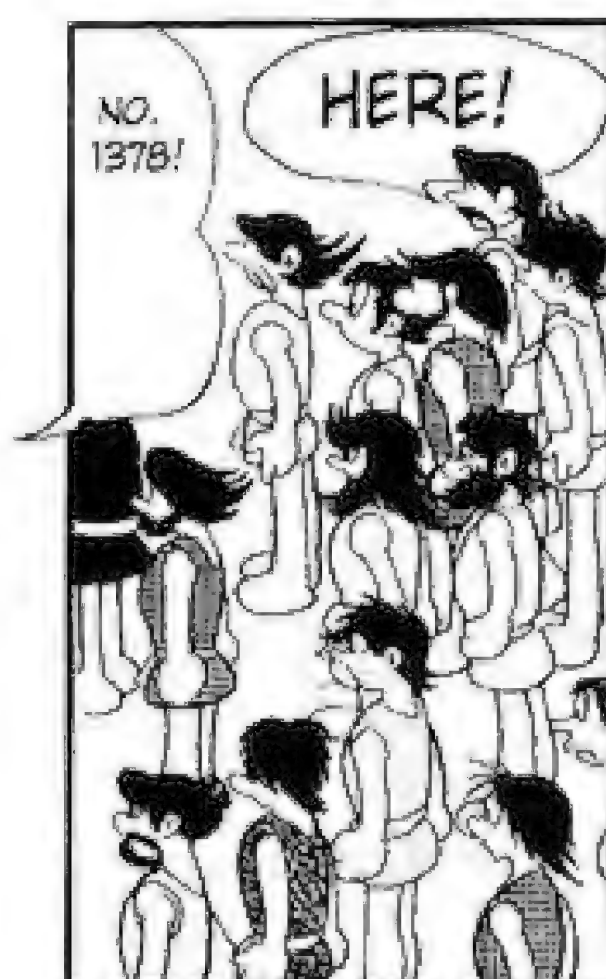
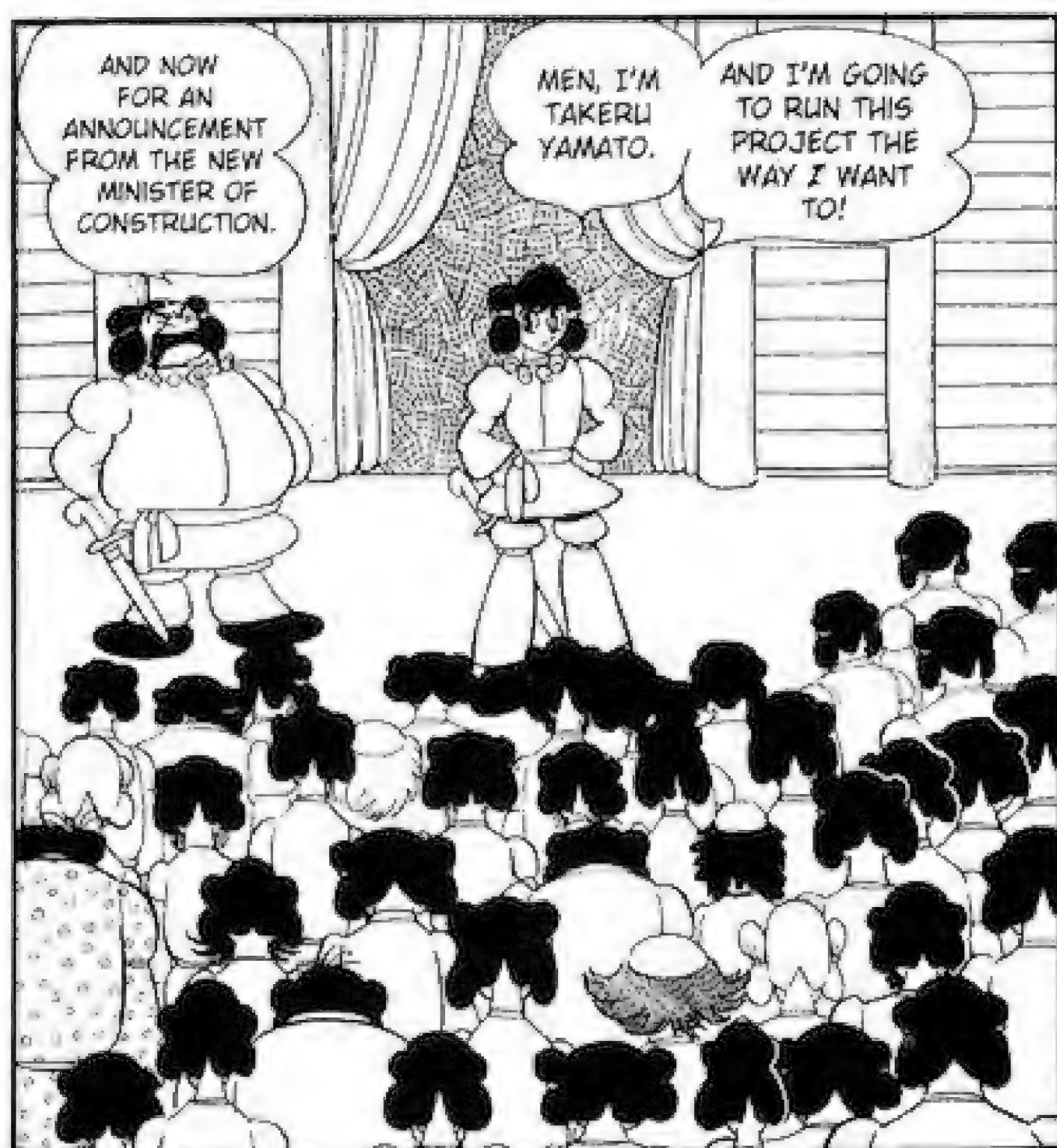
You'll land
on a beach called
Naniwa, near
Yamato.

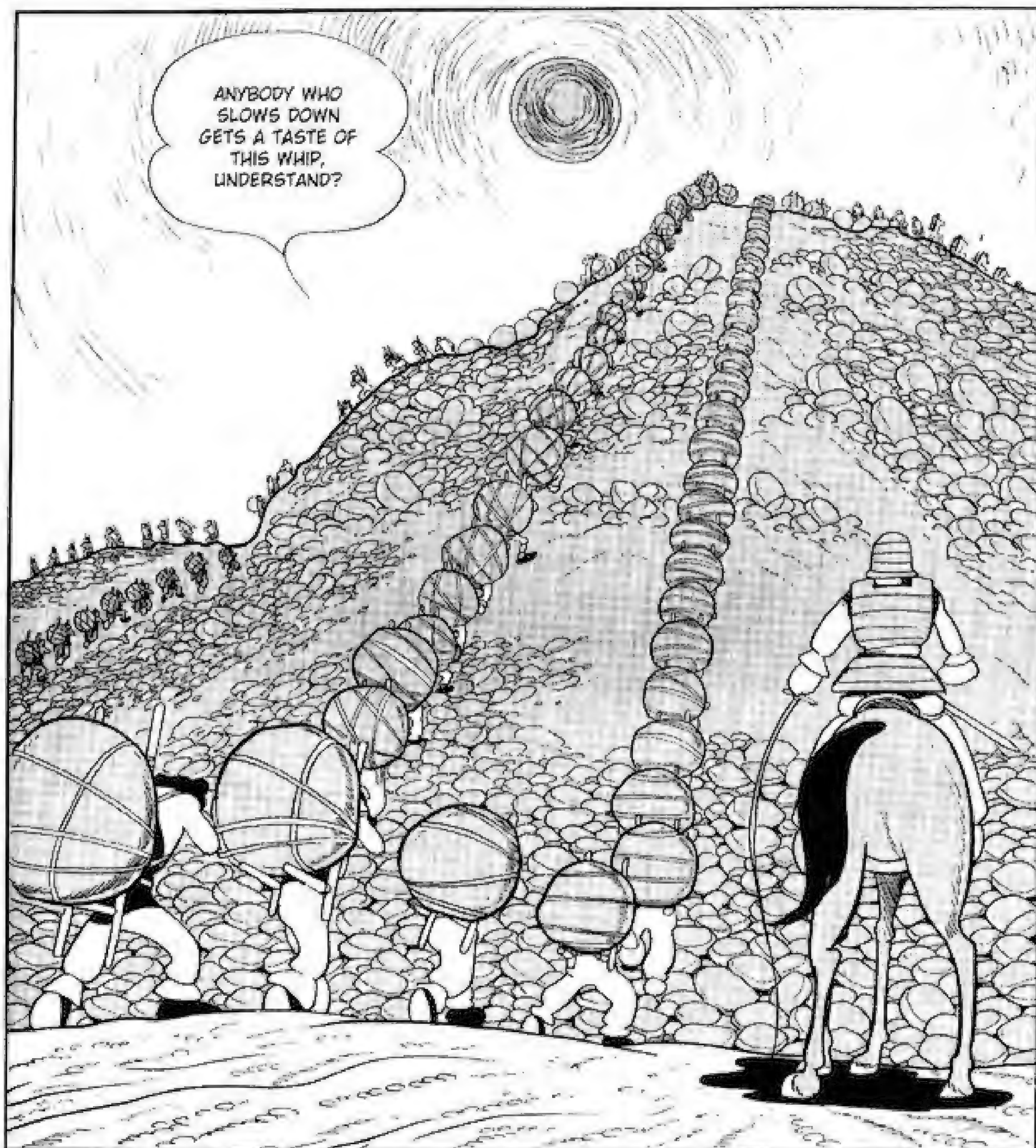


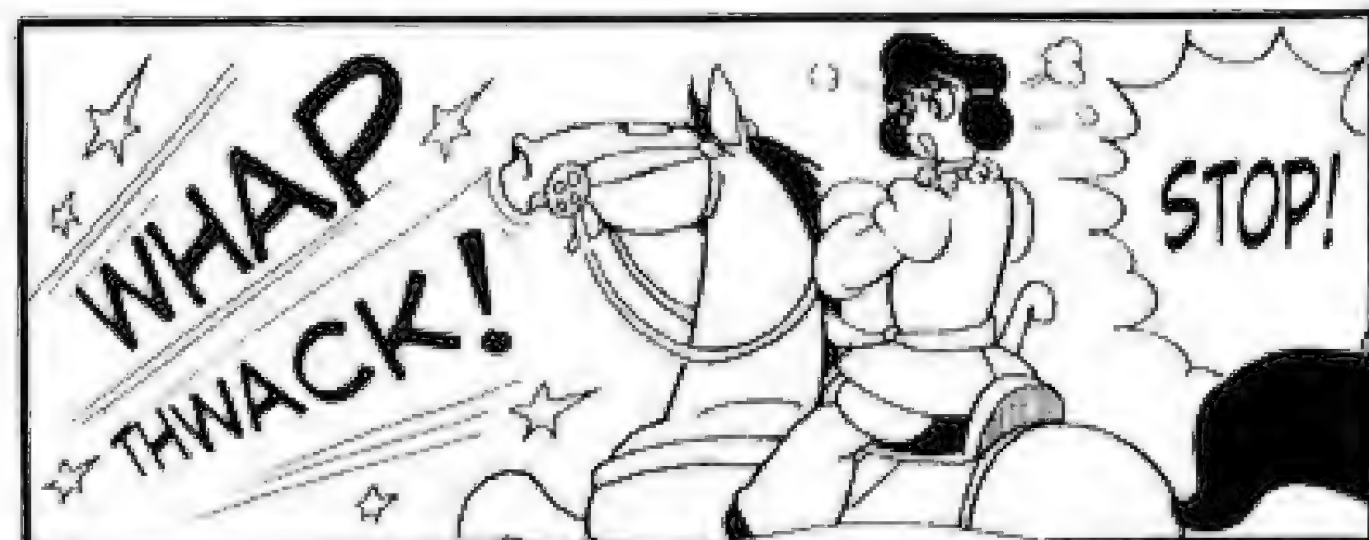
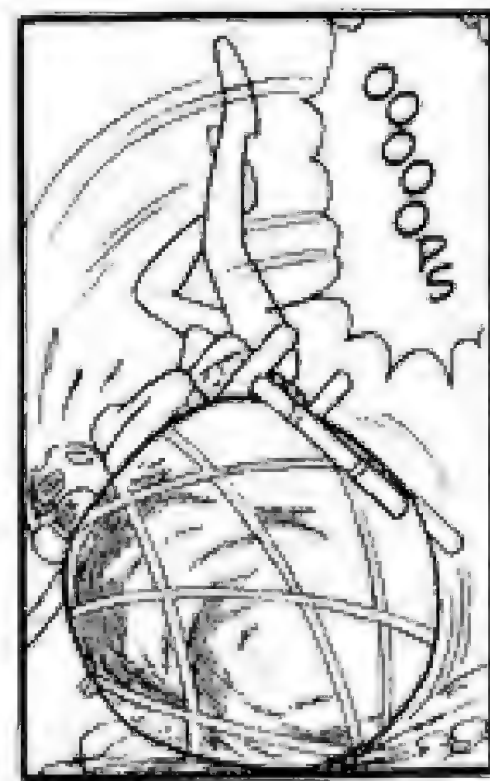


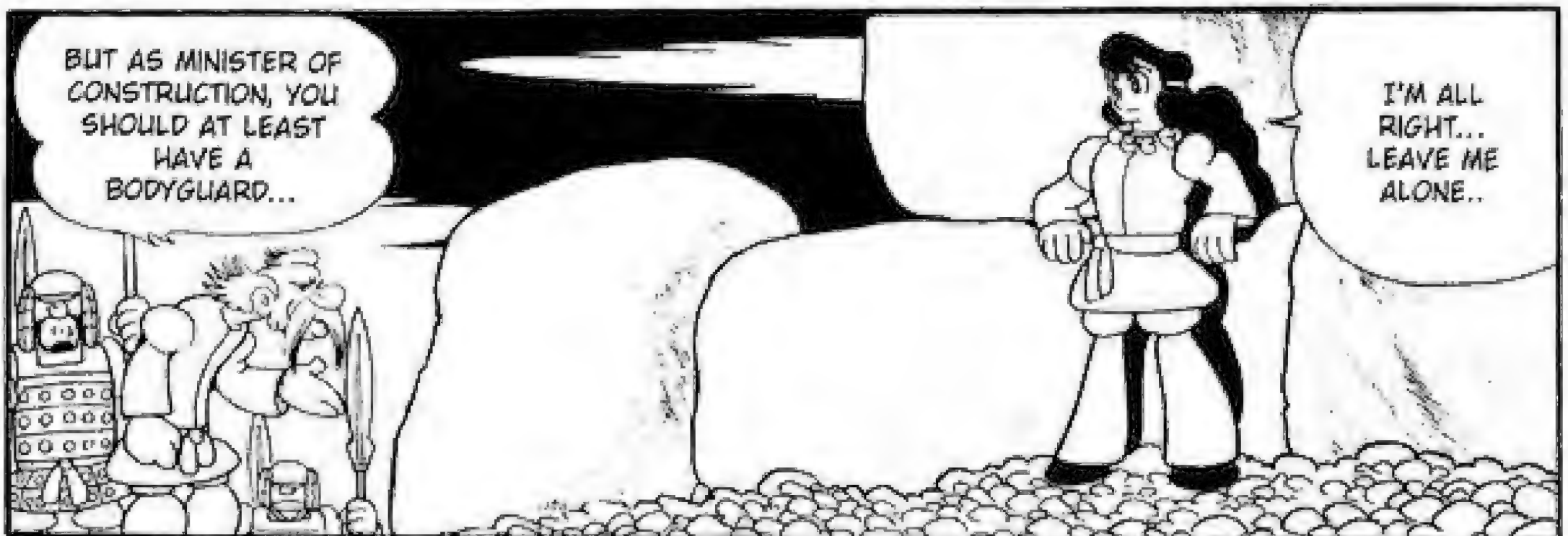
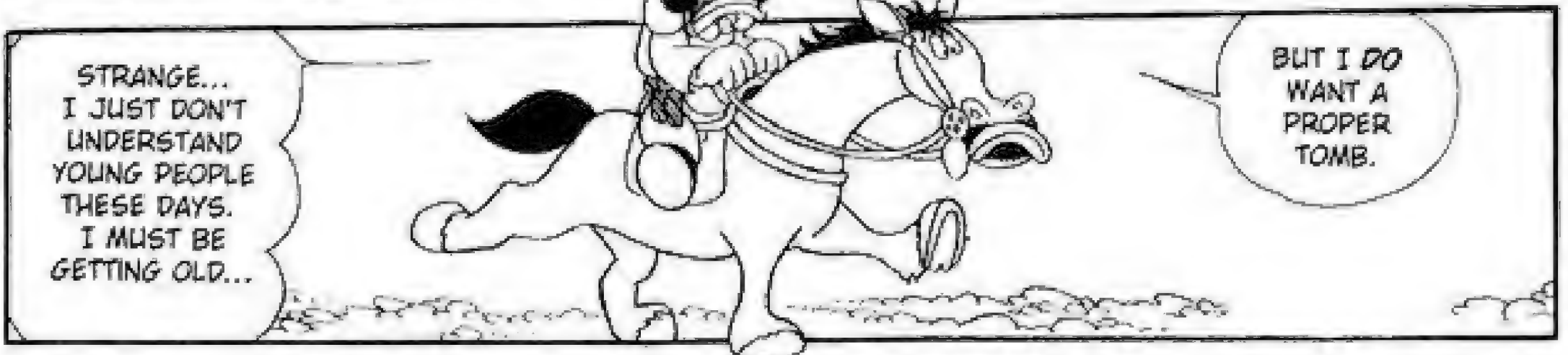
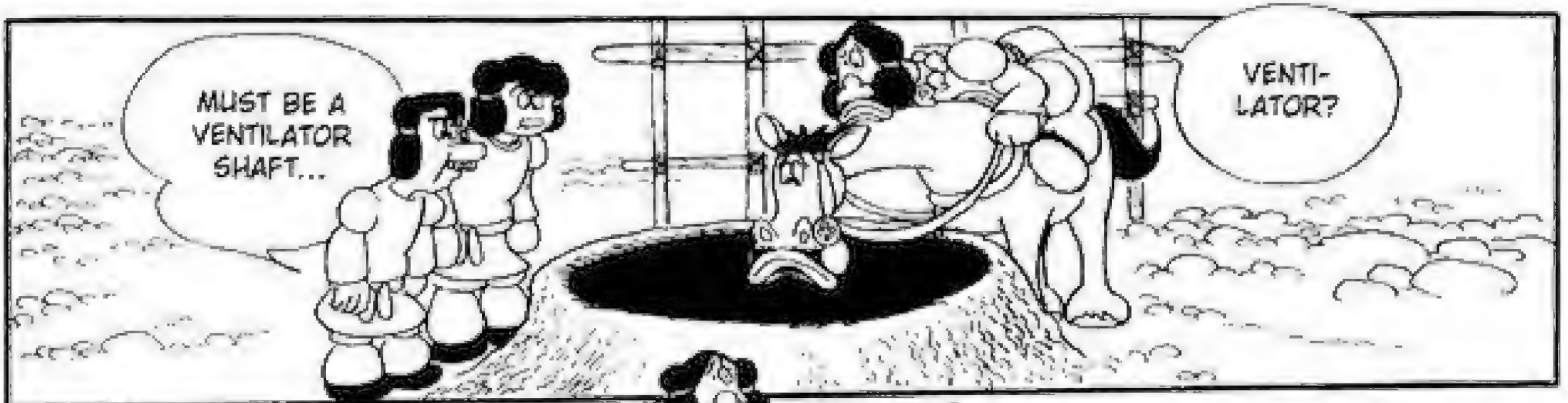
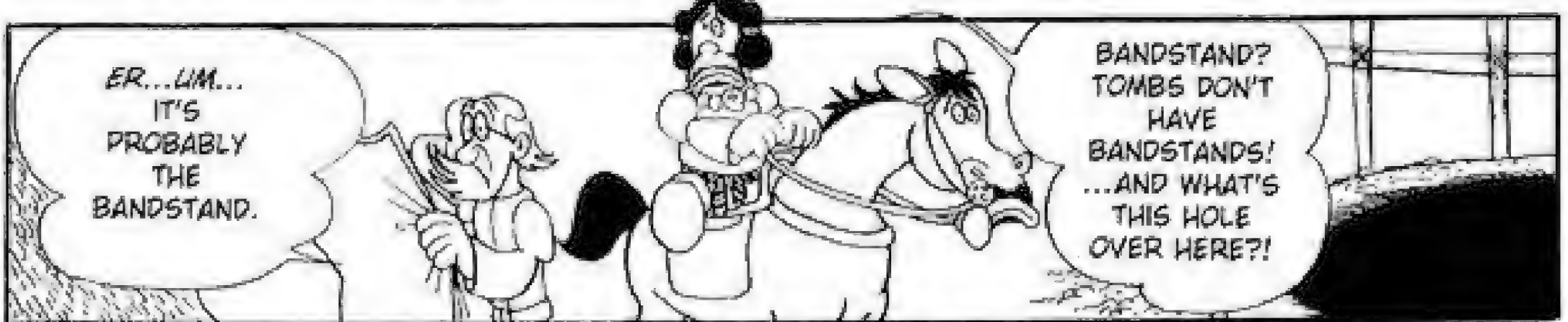


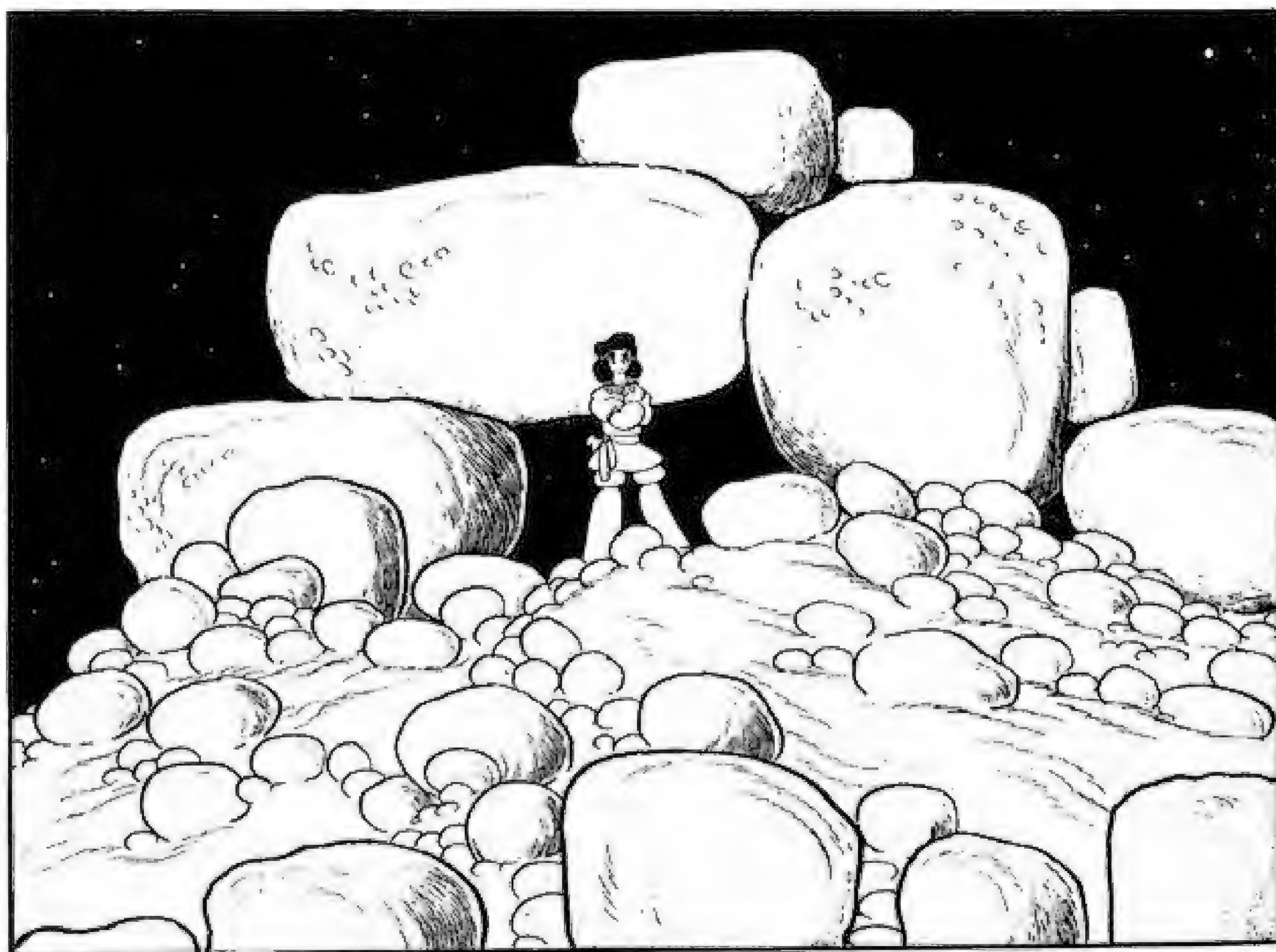














THAT'S
WHY I
ACCEPTED
THIS JOB.

COMPLETION
OF THIS
TOMB IS MY
GOAL IN
LIFE.

JUST AS
COMPLETING
KUMASO'S HISTORY
WAS YOUR
BROTHER'S GOAL
IN LIFE.

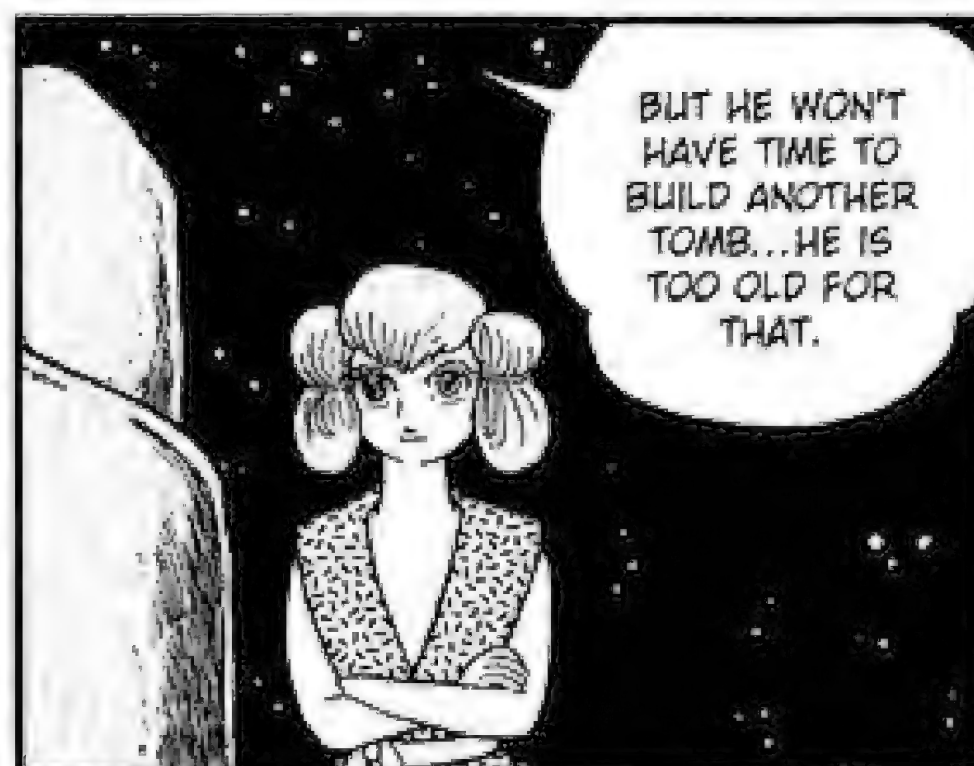


WHAT I'M
BUILDING
HERE,
THOUGH,
IS NOT A
MAUSOLEUM...

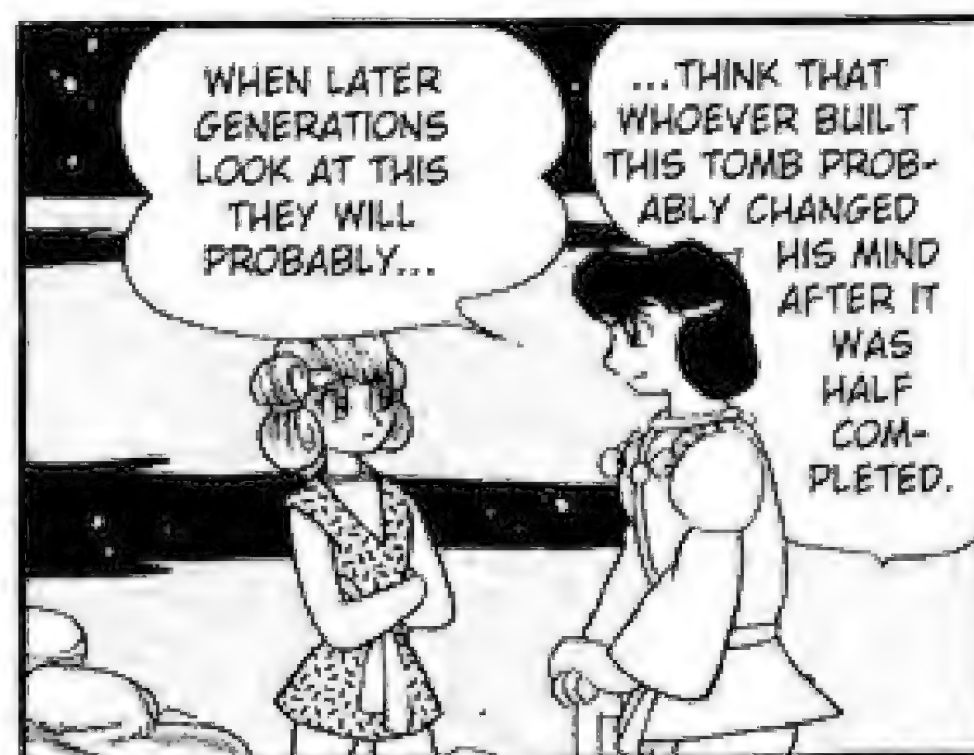
...AS YOU
MAY HAVE
NOTICED.



MY FATHER HASN'T
CAUGHT ON YET...BUT
ONCE IT'S COMPLETED
AND HE FINDS OUT
WHAT'S HAPPENED
HE'LL PROBABLY BE SO
ANGRY HE'LL KILL ME.



BUT HE WON'T
HAVE TIME TO
BUILD ANOTHER
TOMB...HE IS
TOO OLD FOR
THAT.



WHEN LATER
GENERATIONS
LOOK AT THIS
THEY WILL
PROBABLY...

...THINK THAT
WHOEVER BUILT
THIS TOMB PROB-
ABLY CHANGED
HIS MIND
AFTER IT
WAS HALF
COM-
PLETED.



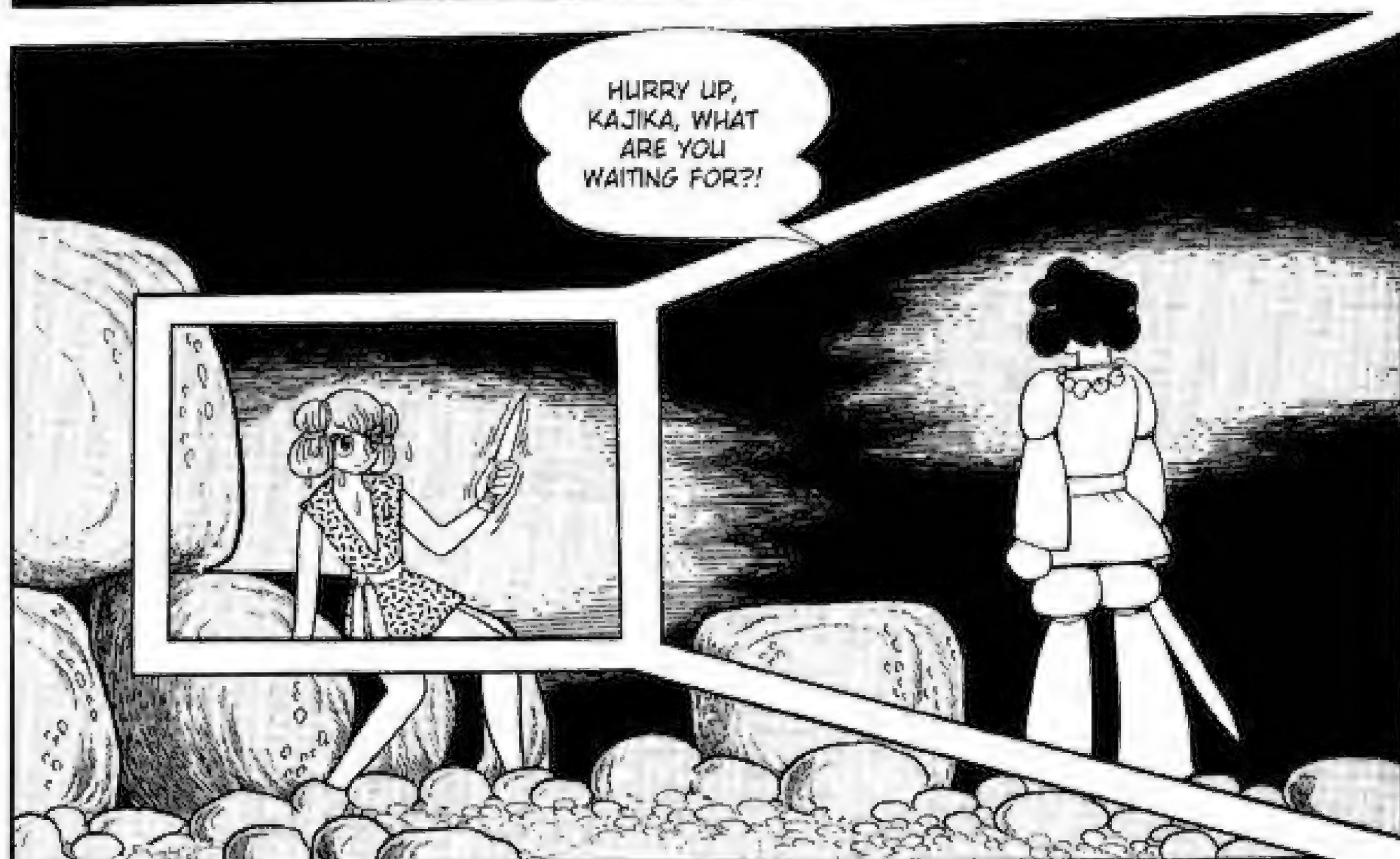
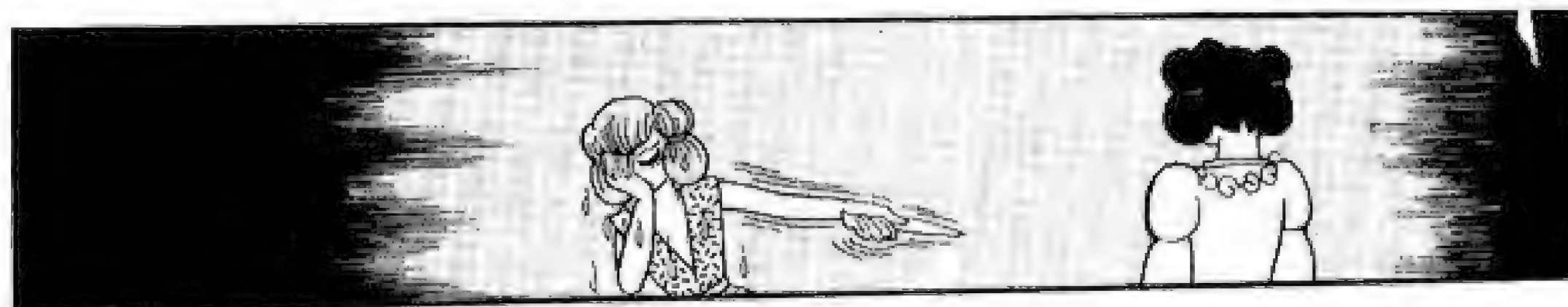
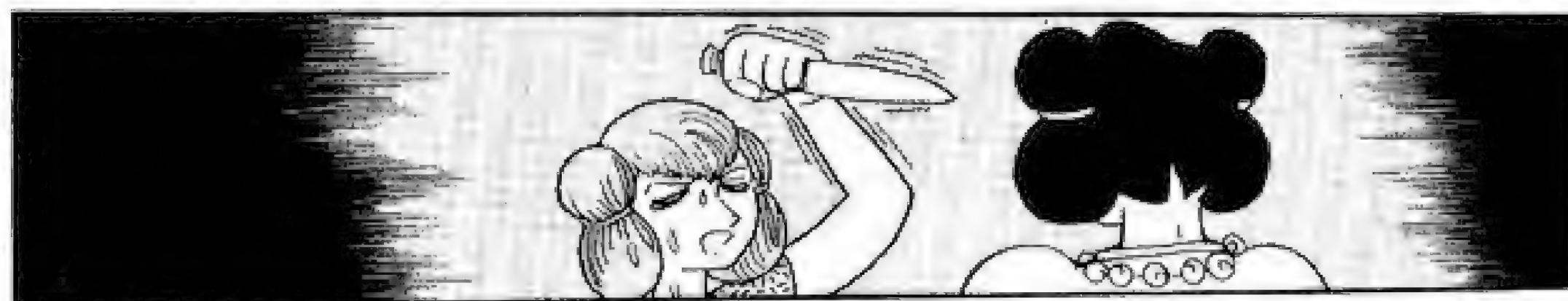
THAT'S ALL I
HAVE TO SAY.
IF YOU'RE
GOING TO KILL
ME, DO IT
NOW.

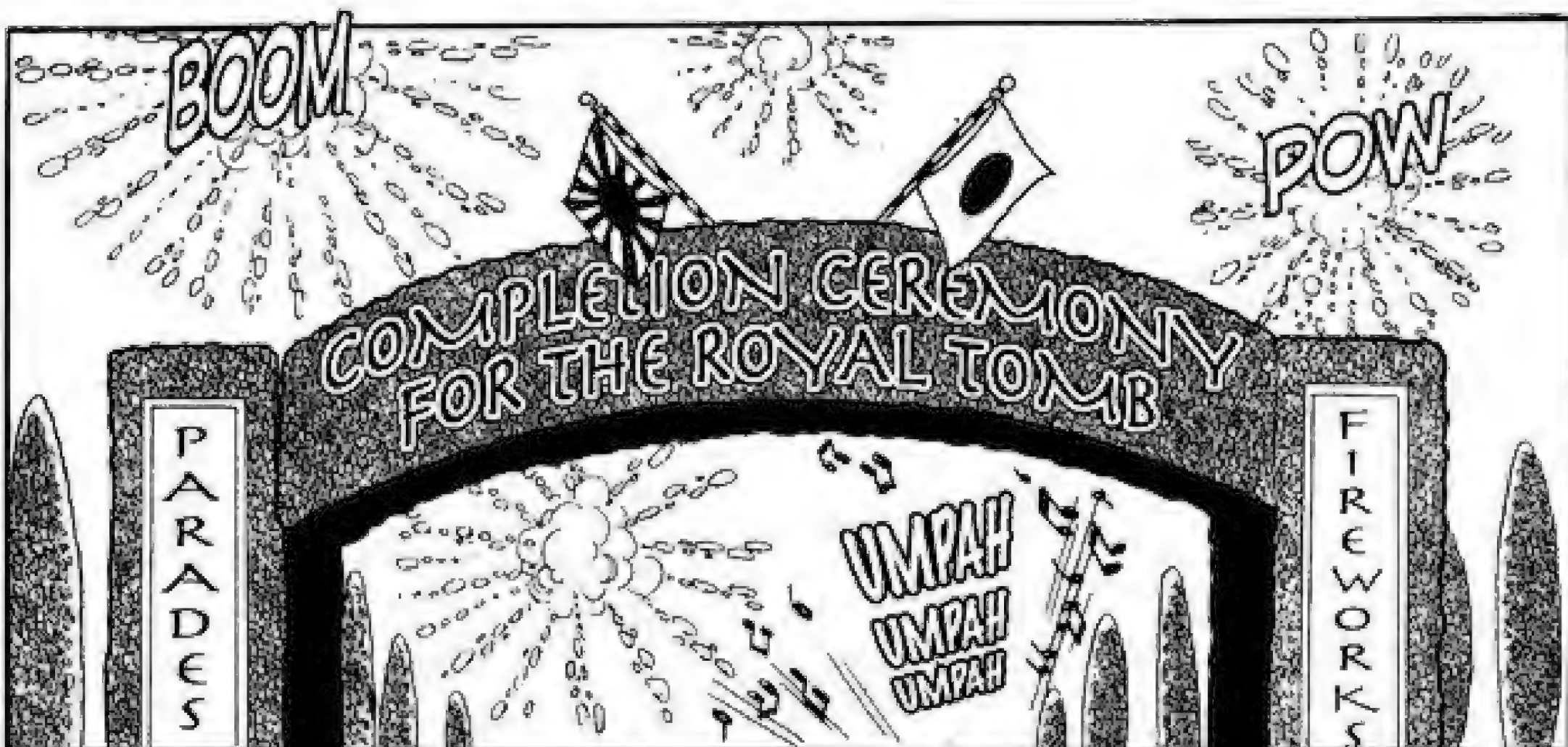
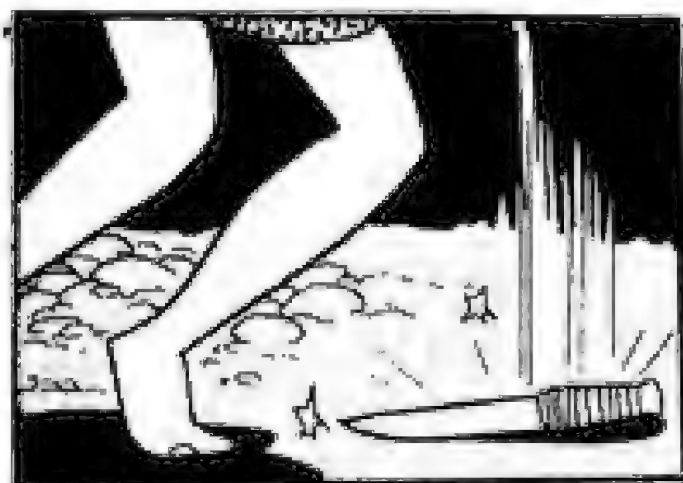


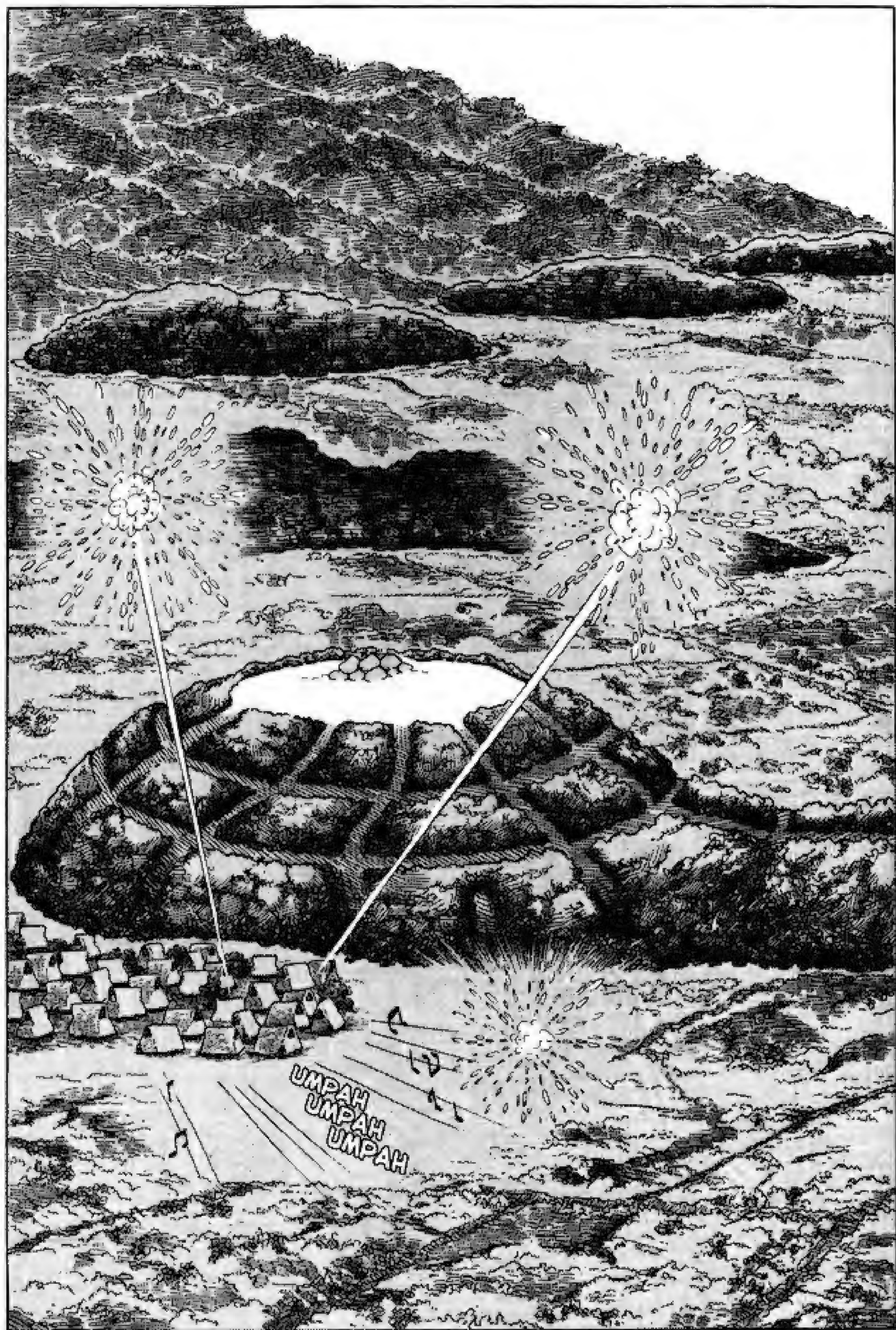
WHAT DID
YOU DO WITH
THE BLOOD
OF THE
PHOENIX?

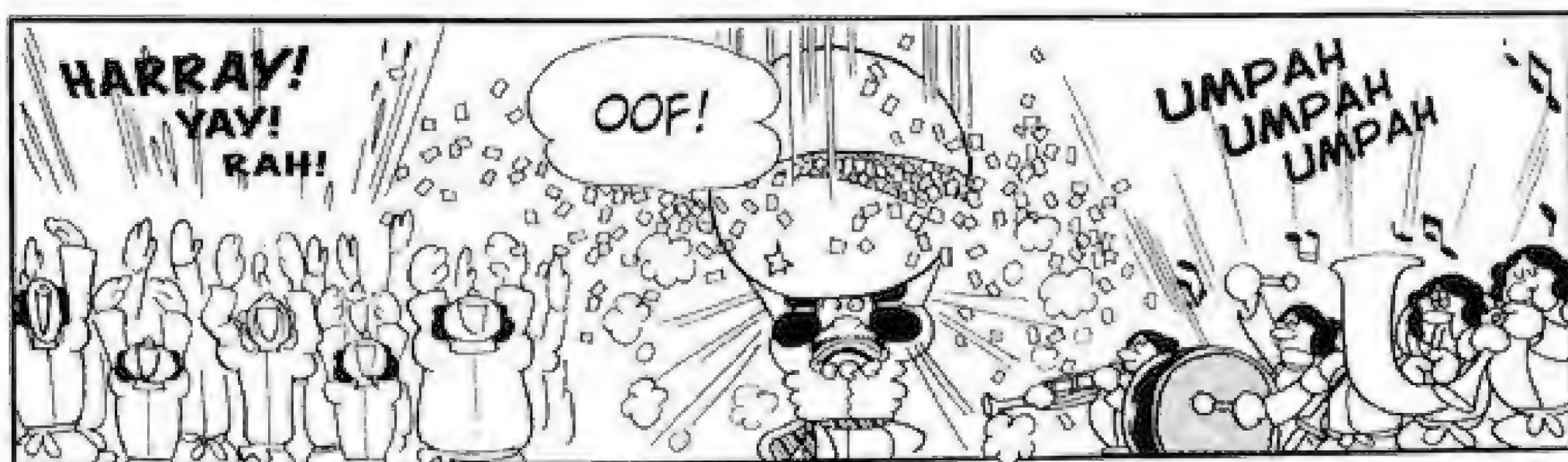
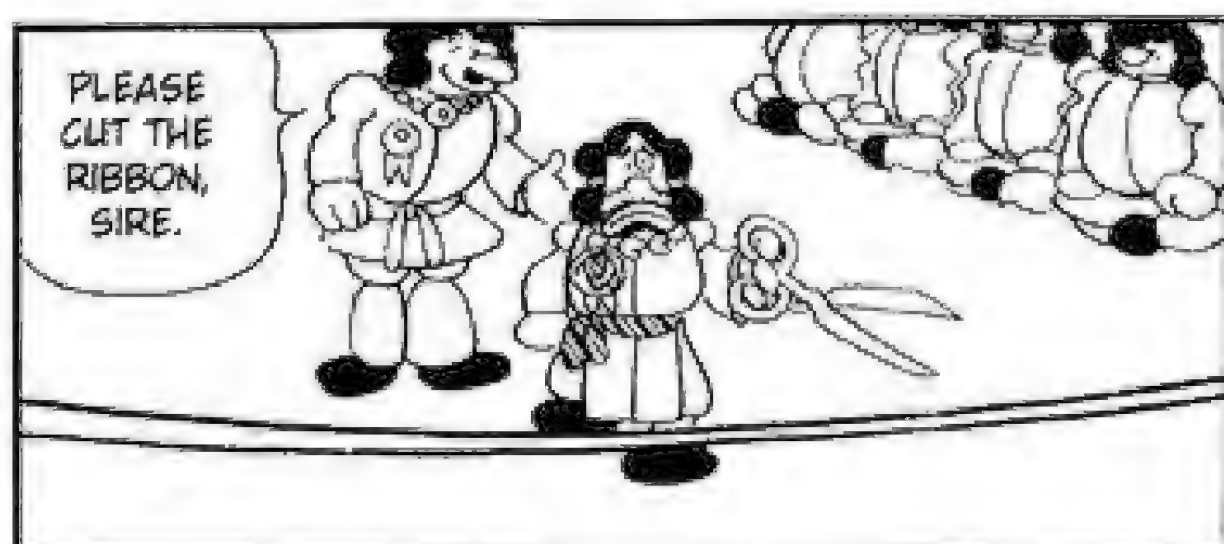


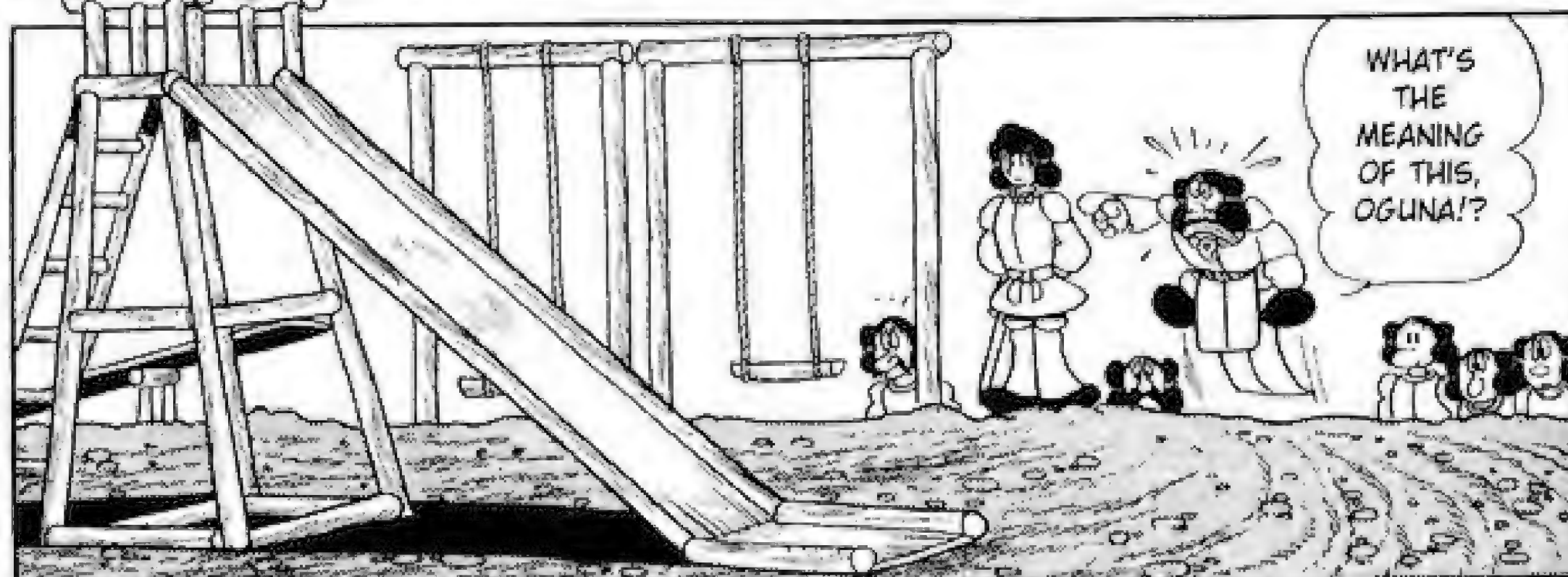
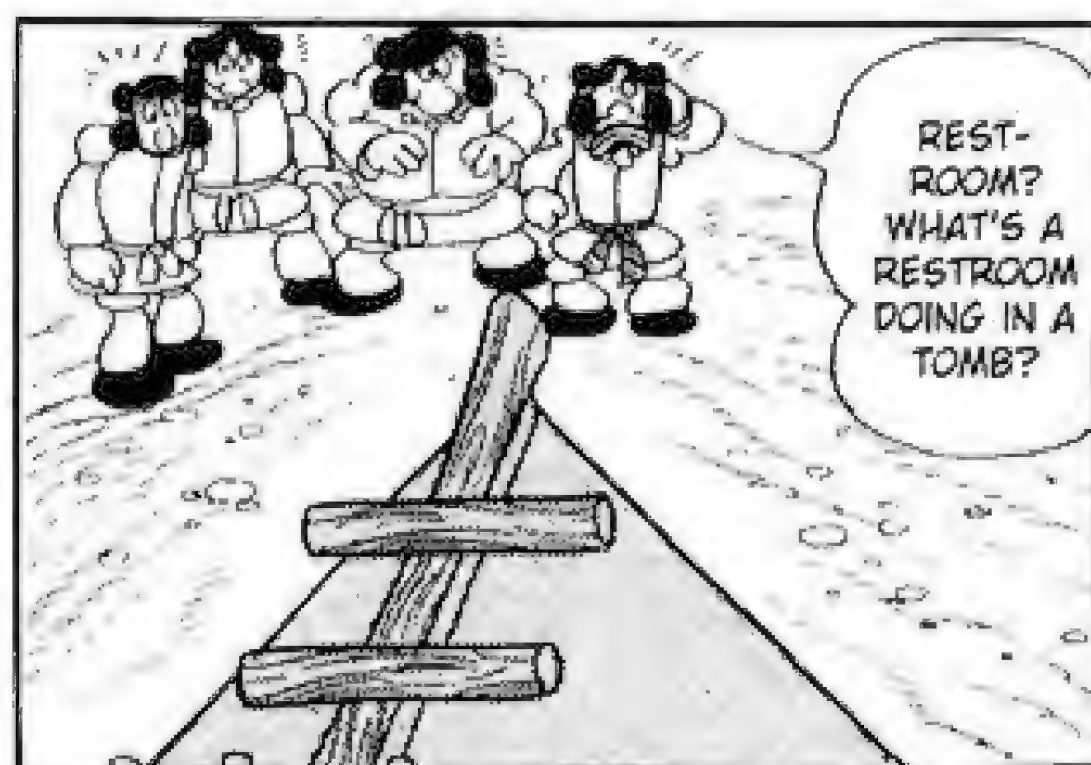
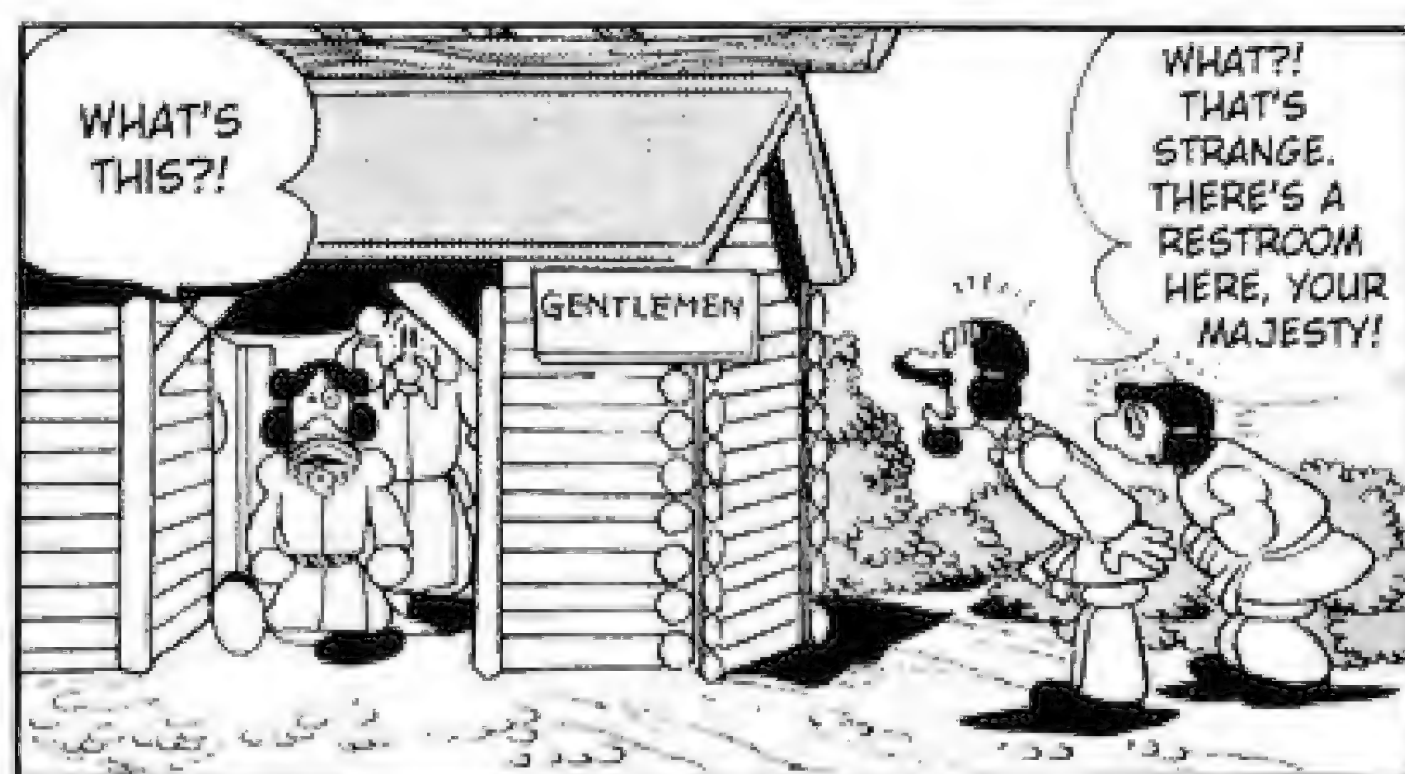
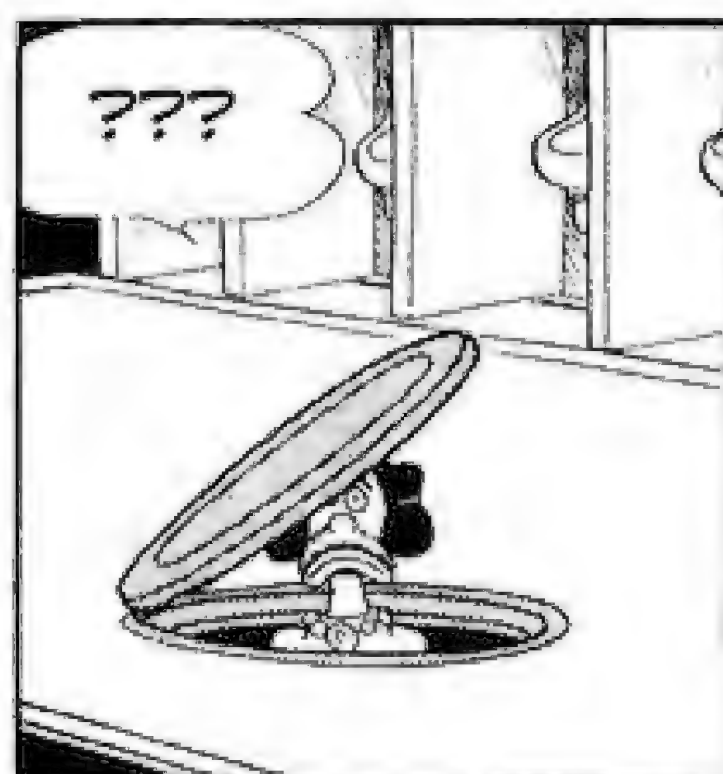
I HAVEN'T
GIVEN IT TO
A SOUL...
HERE...
IT'S RIGHT
HERE!

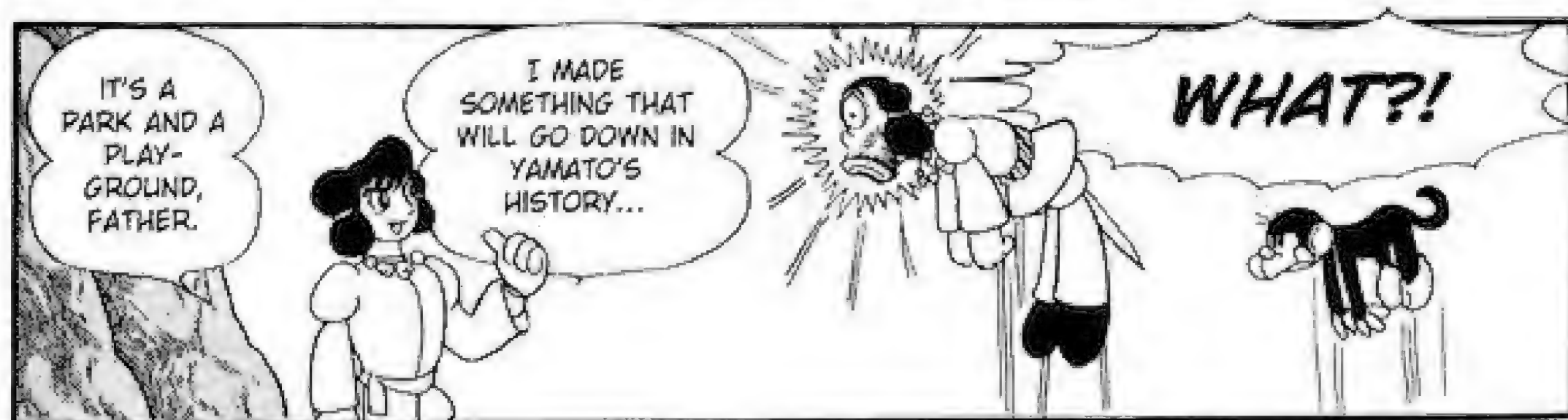
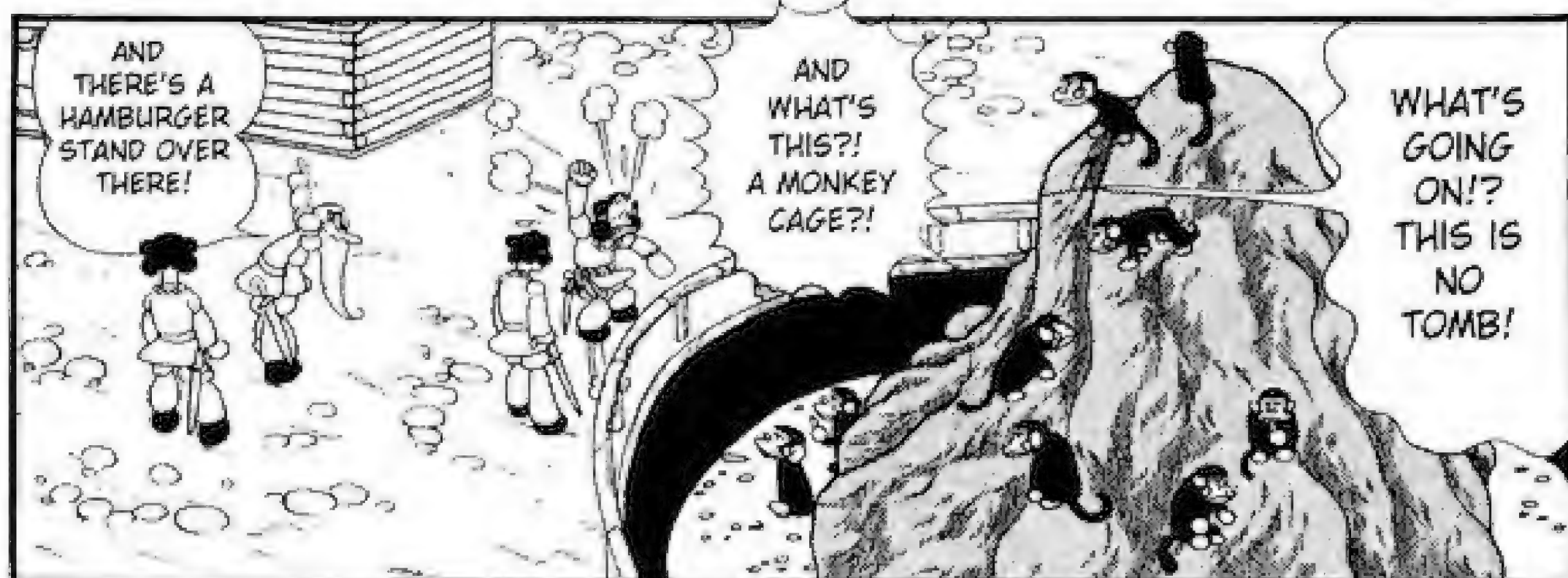


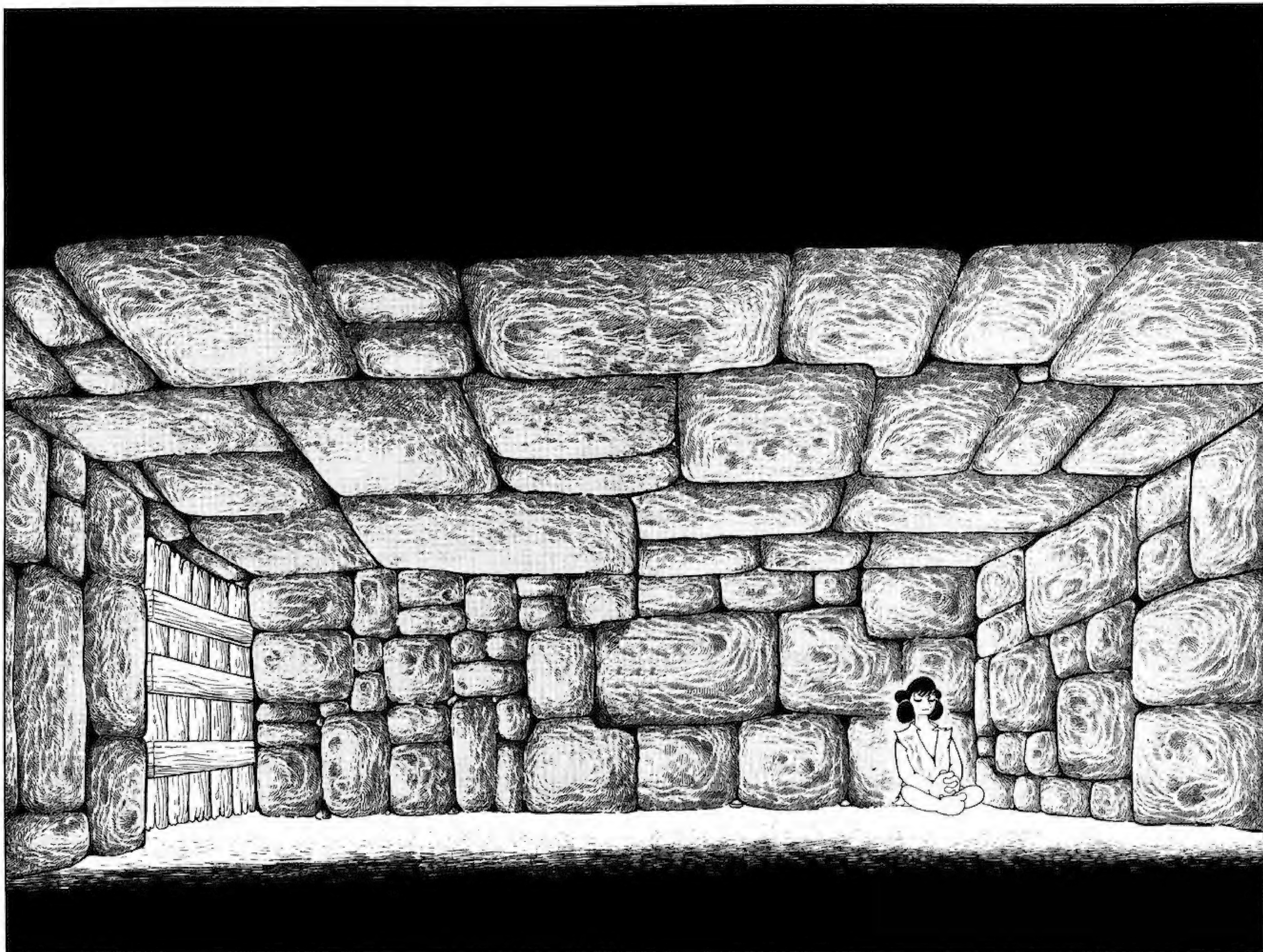


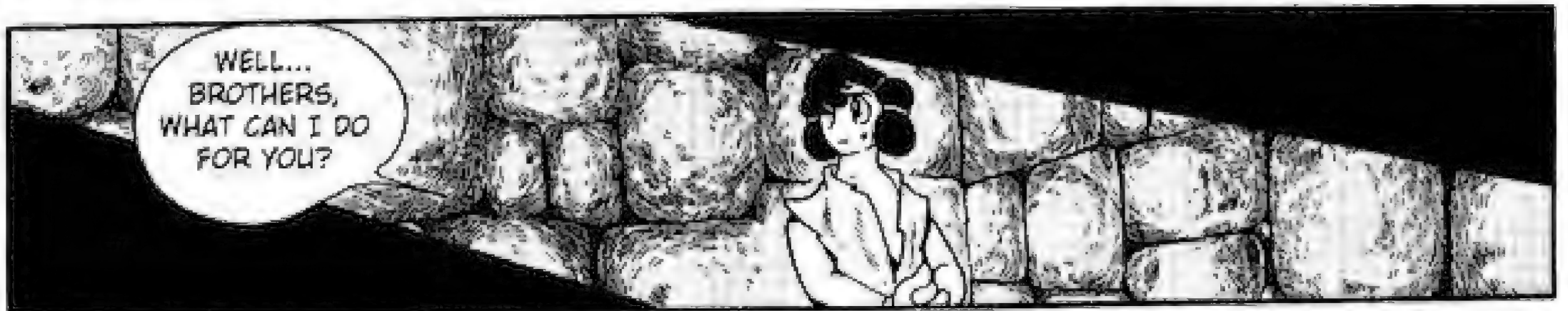
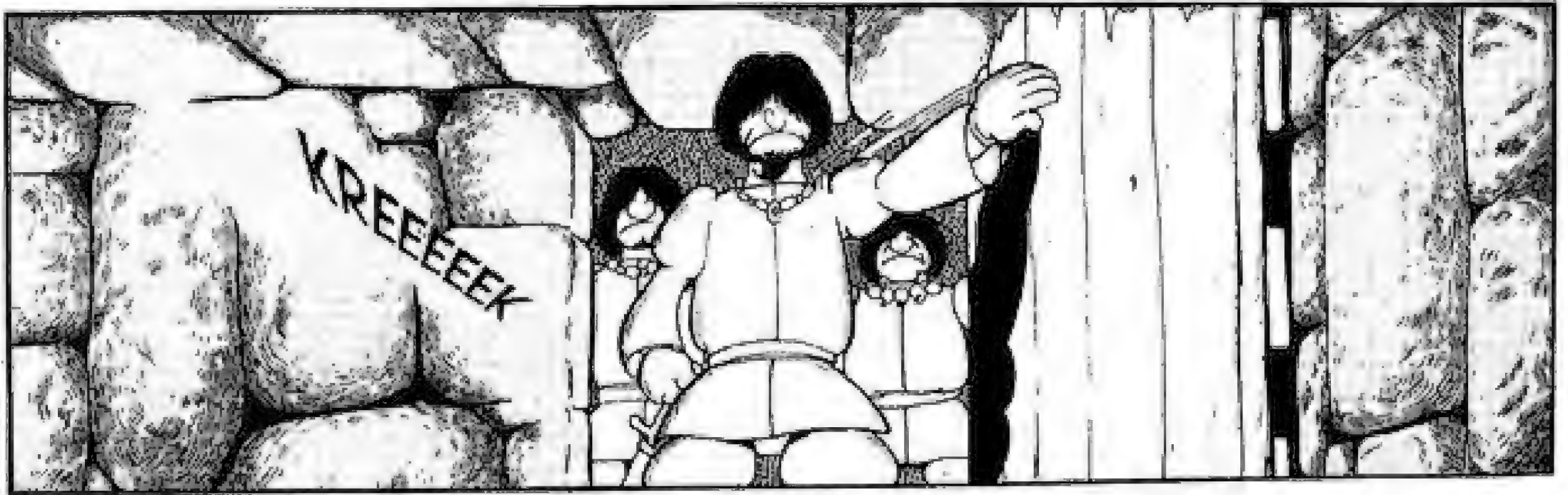


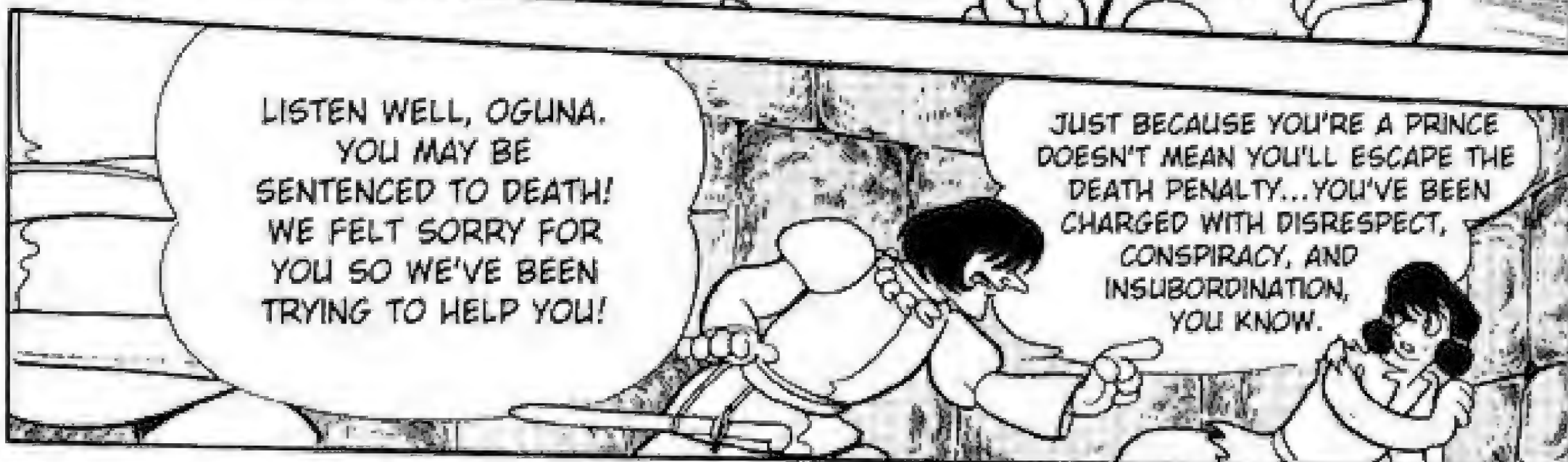
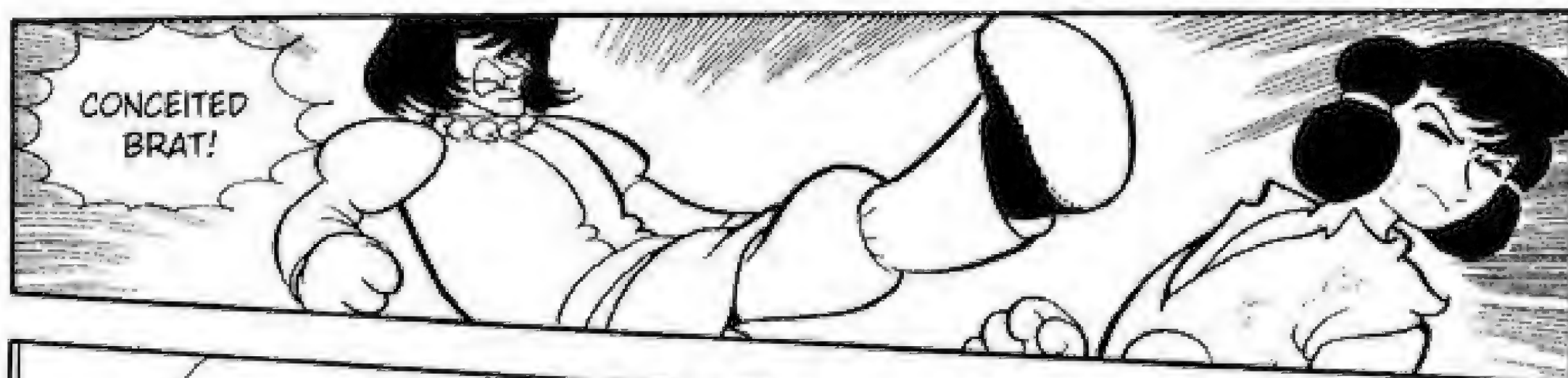














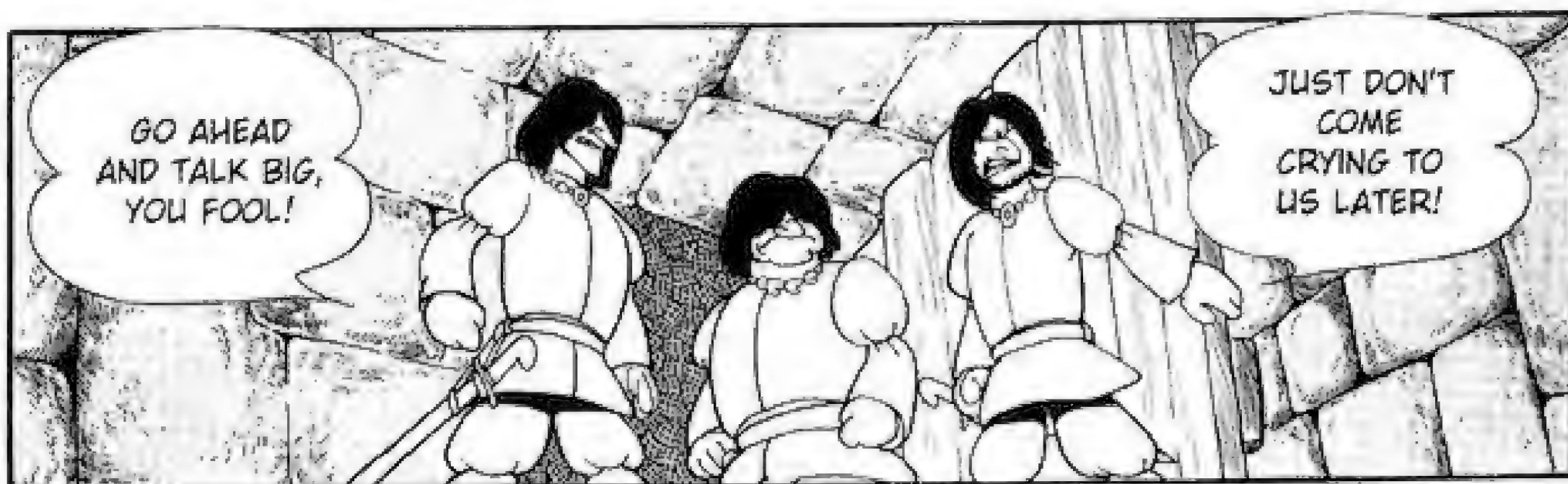
I WANTED TO DESTROY THAT KIND OF ARROGANCE.

SO I TURNED HIS TOMB INTO A PLAYGROUND!

AND LET TAKERU KAWAKAMI OF KUMASO FINISH WRITING THE TRUE HISTORY OF THE LAND.

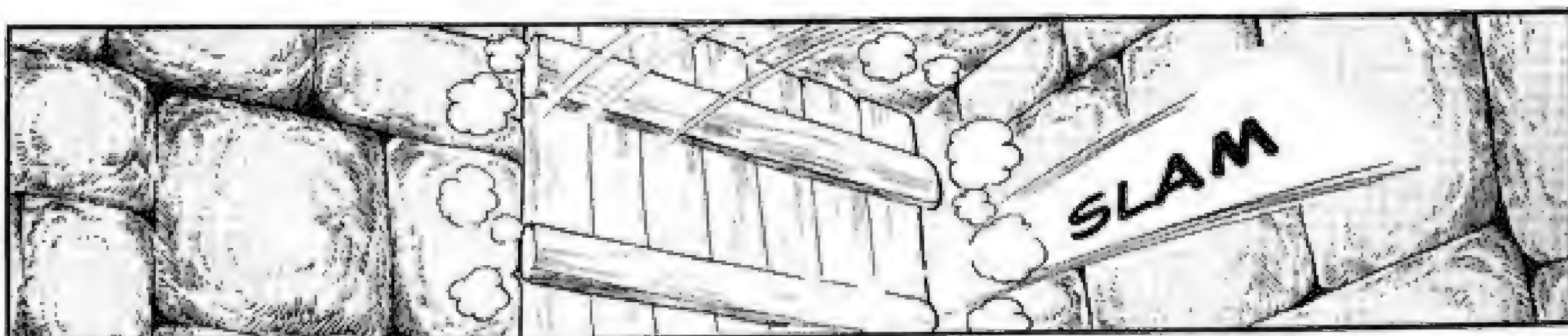


I WON'T LET THE KING MAKE SACRIFICES OUT OF INNOCENT PEOPLE. I'LL HELP THEM SURVIVE!!

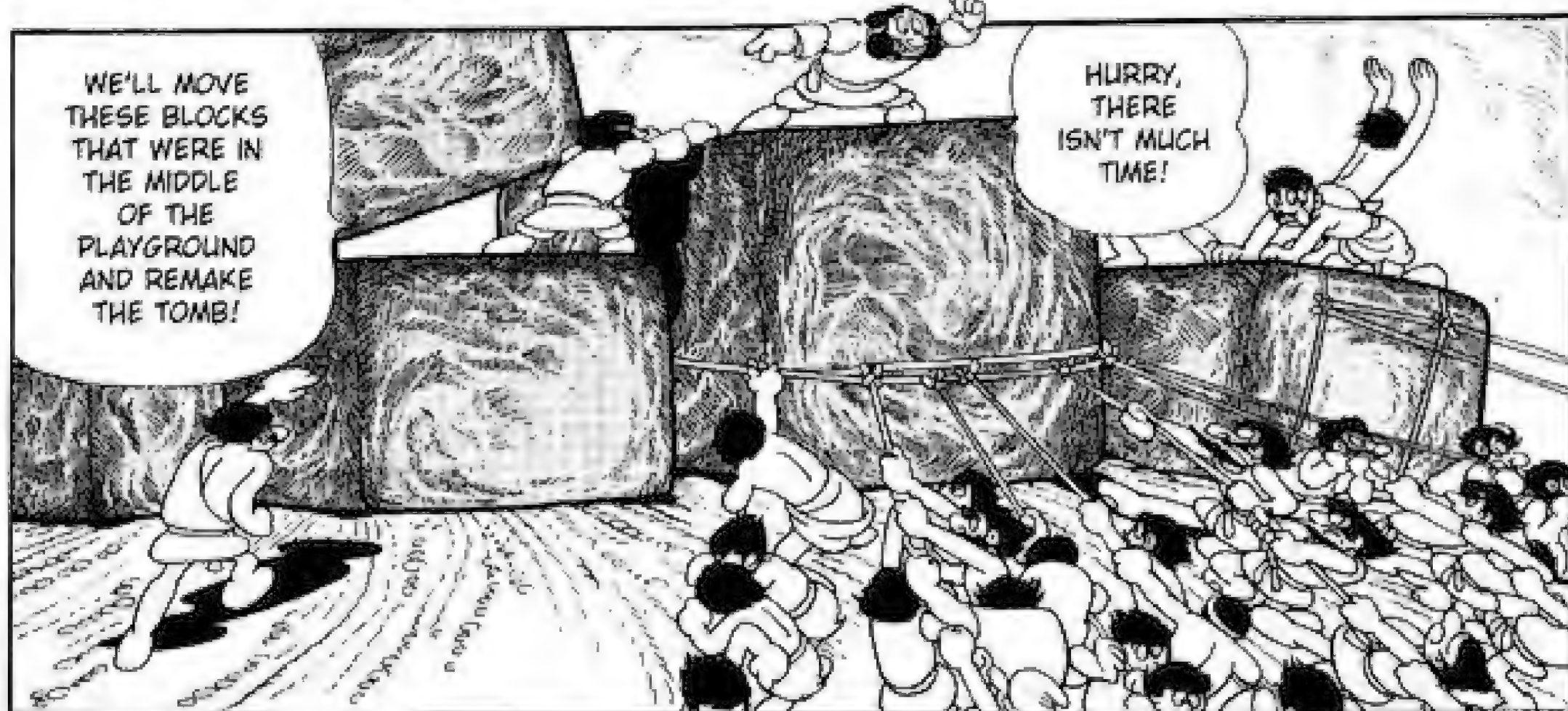
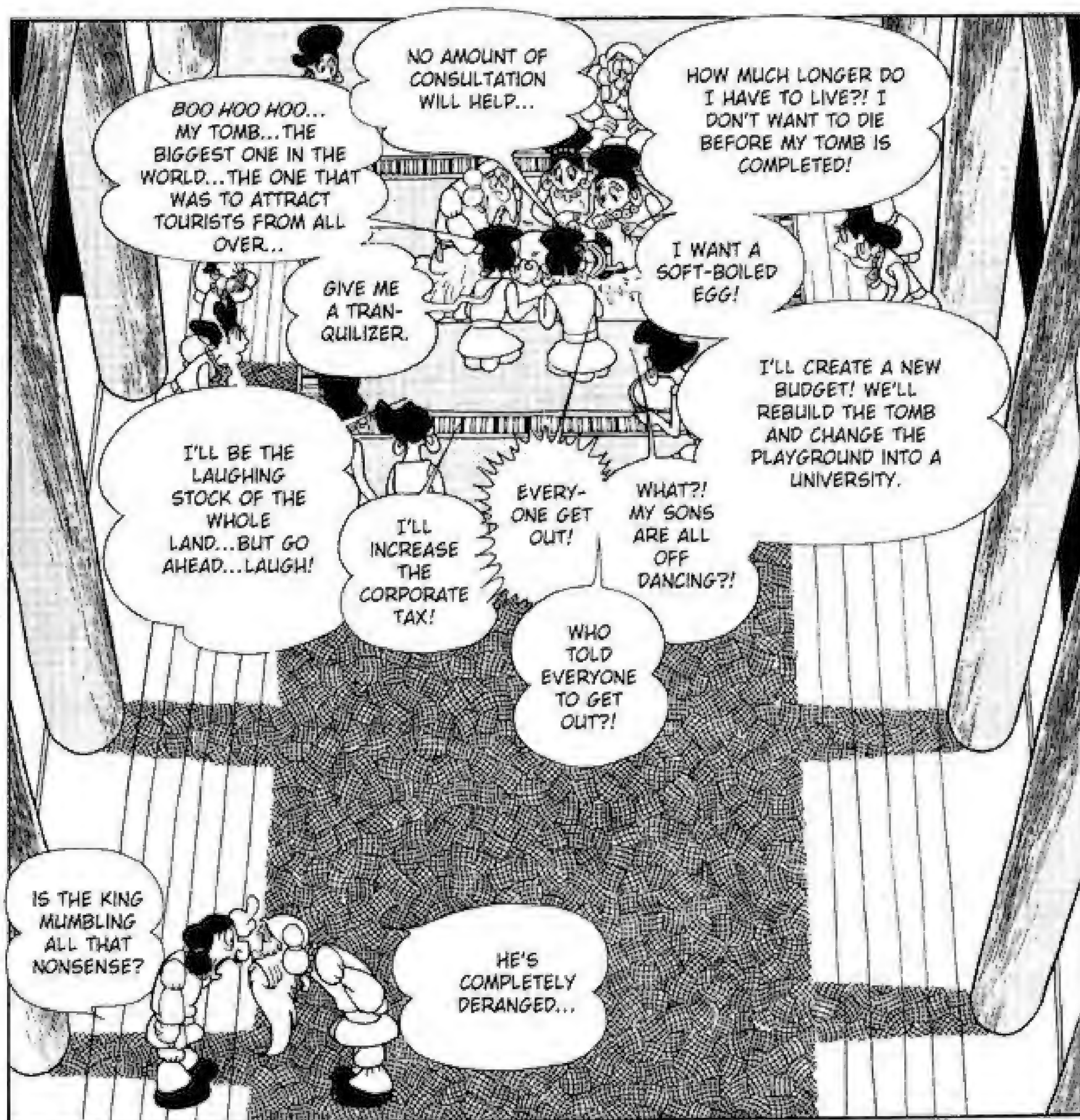


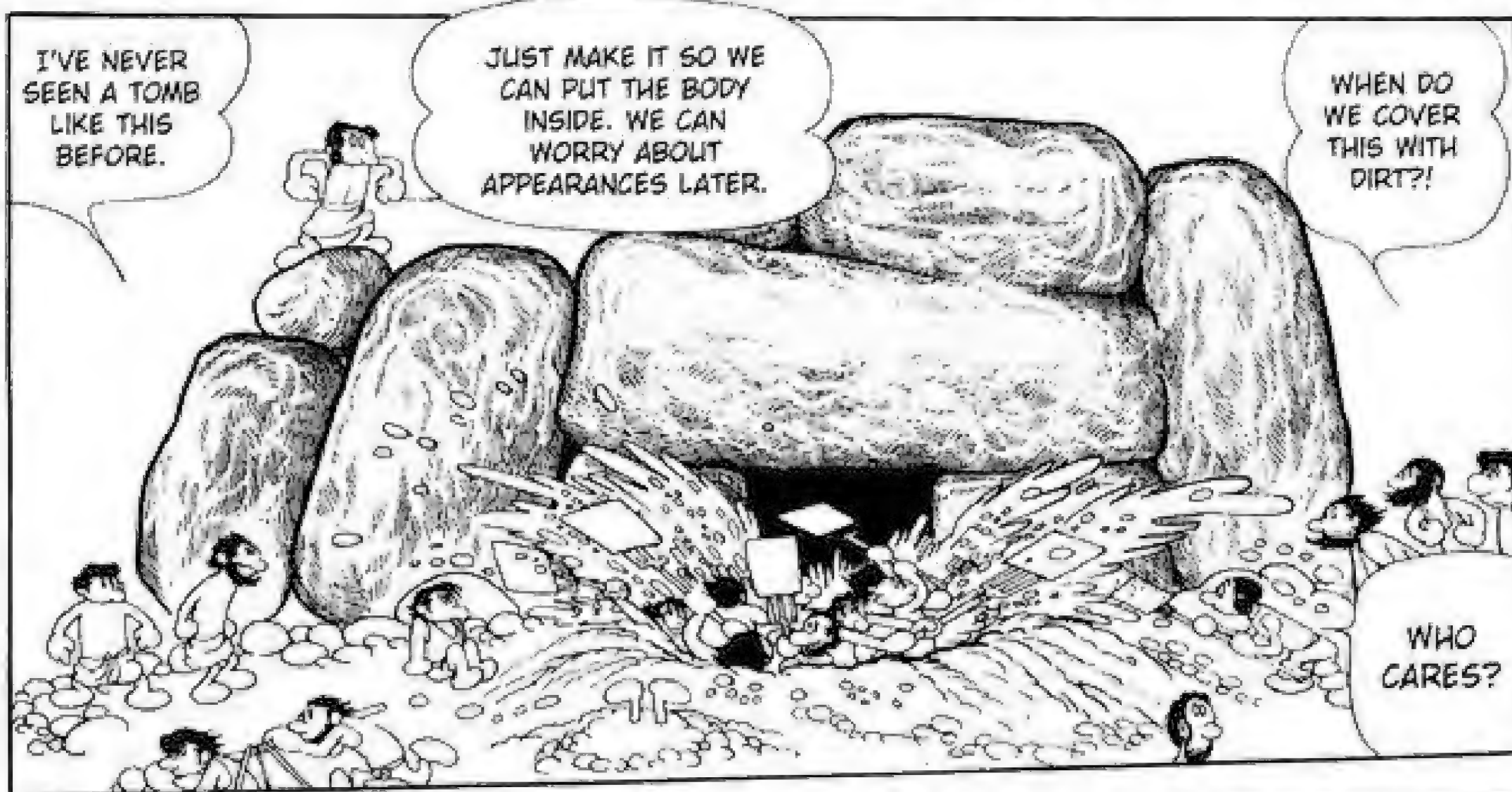
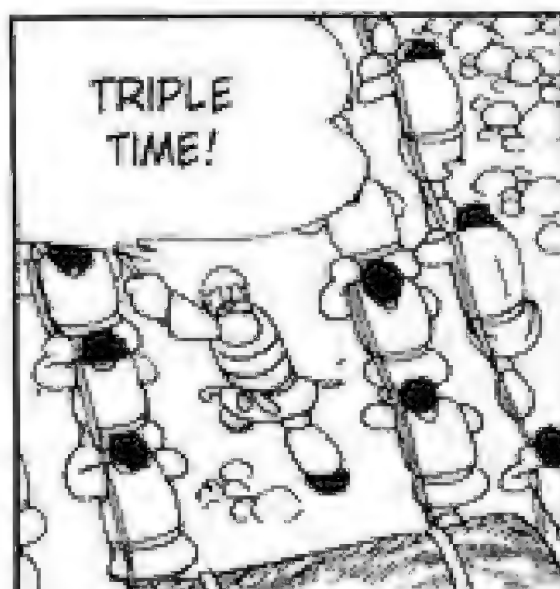
GO AHEAD AND TALK BIG, YOU FOOL!

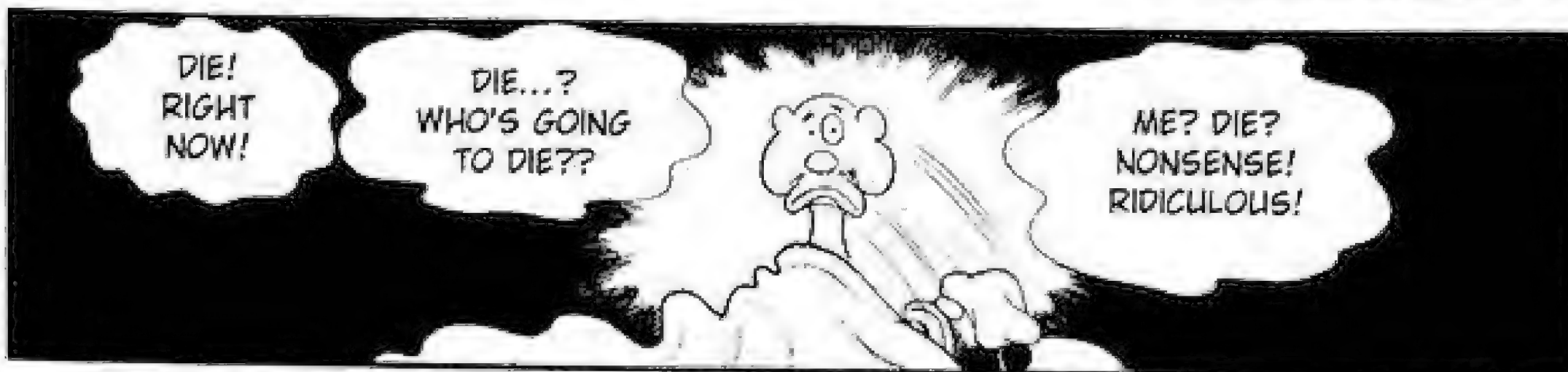
JUST DON'T COME CRYING TO US LATER!

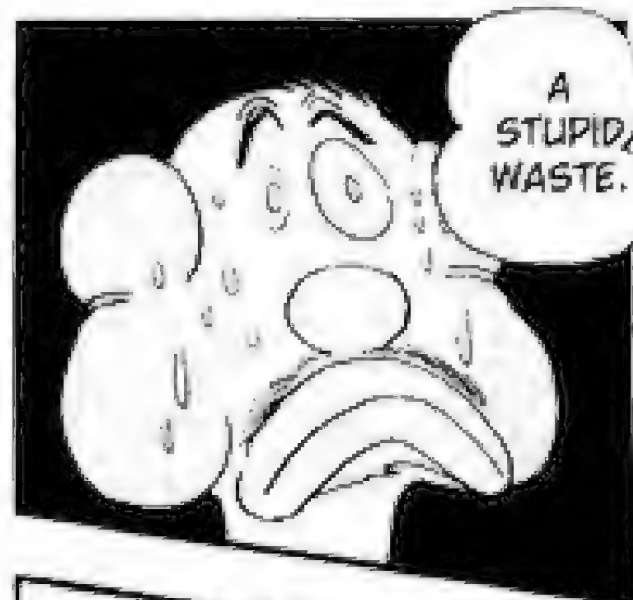


THE BLOOD OF THE PHOENIX... THIS IS ALL I NEED!









A
STUPID
WASTE.



I WANTED
TO READ YASUNARI
KAWABATA...
SEE *GONE WITH THE
WIND*...
DATE MORE GIRLS...
LEARN TO DRIVE...
PLAY BRIDGE...
LEARN TO DRINK
WHITE LIGHTNING...



MORE...

TO DO
SOMETHING
MORE
SIGNIFI-
CANT!

I
WANTED...



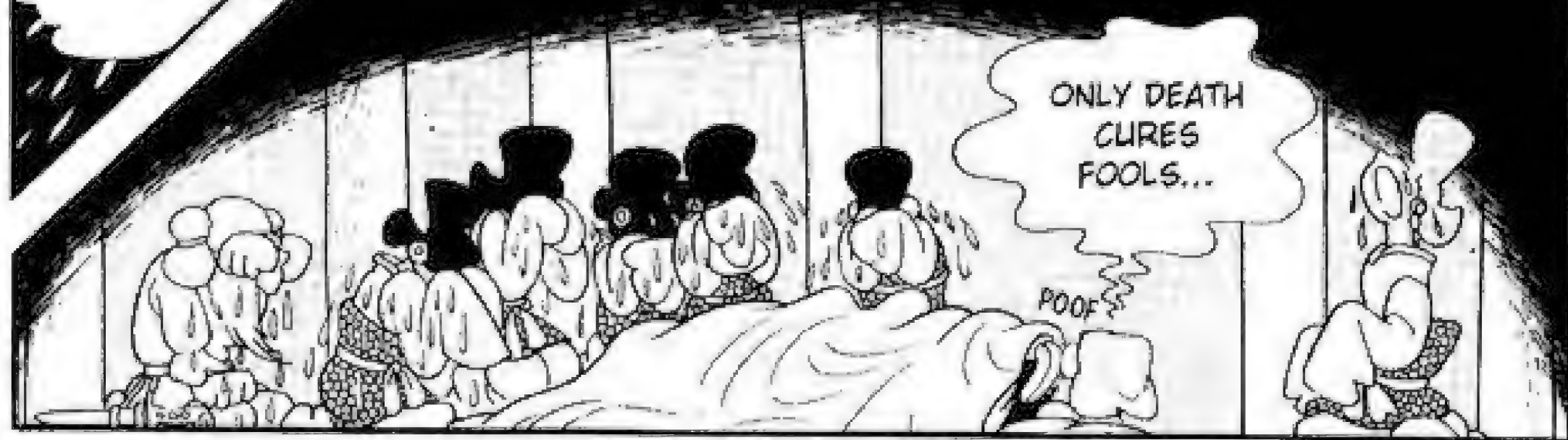
I SHOULD AT
LEAST THINK OF
SOME FAMOUS
LAST WORDS...

WHAT CAN I
LEAVE THE
WORLD....
..NOTHING!

JUST A
FEW...

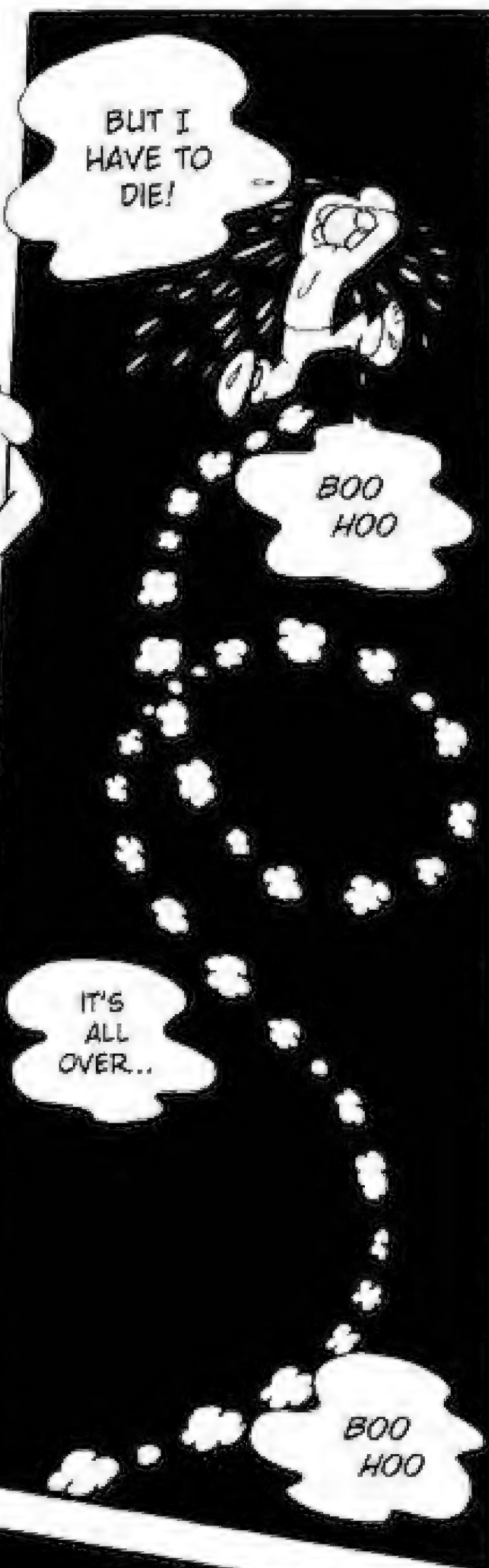
BUT TO DO
THAT...I'D NEED
AT LEAST A
HIGH SCHOOL
DIPLOMA...

AH...I'VE
THOUGHT OF
SOMETHING TO
SAY...



ONLY DEATH
CURES
FOOLS...

POOF

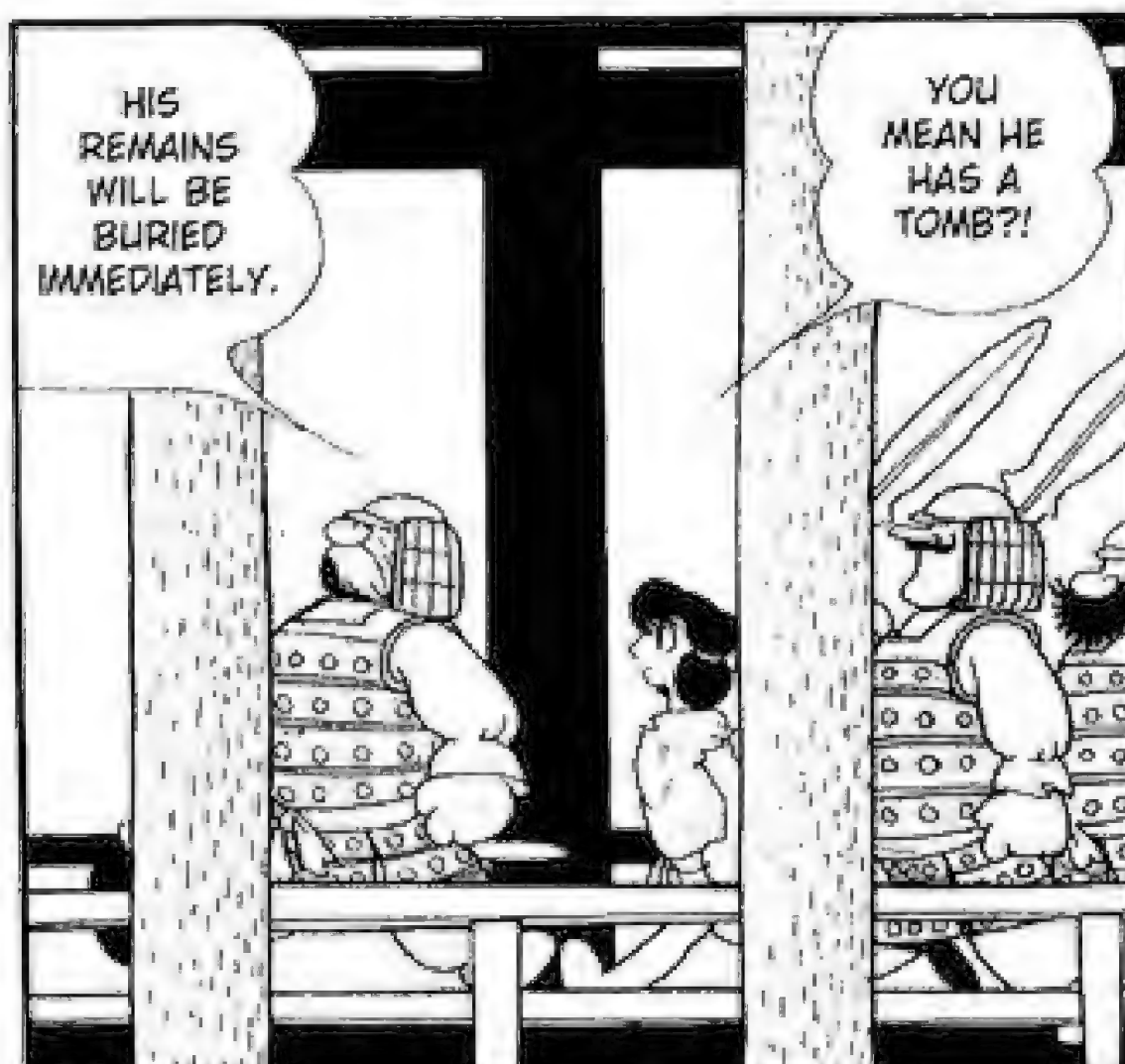
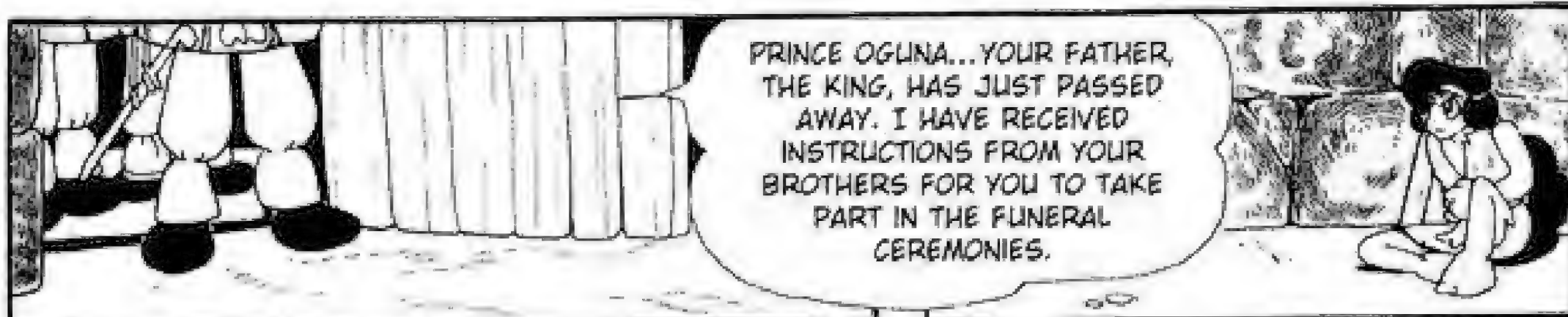
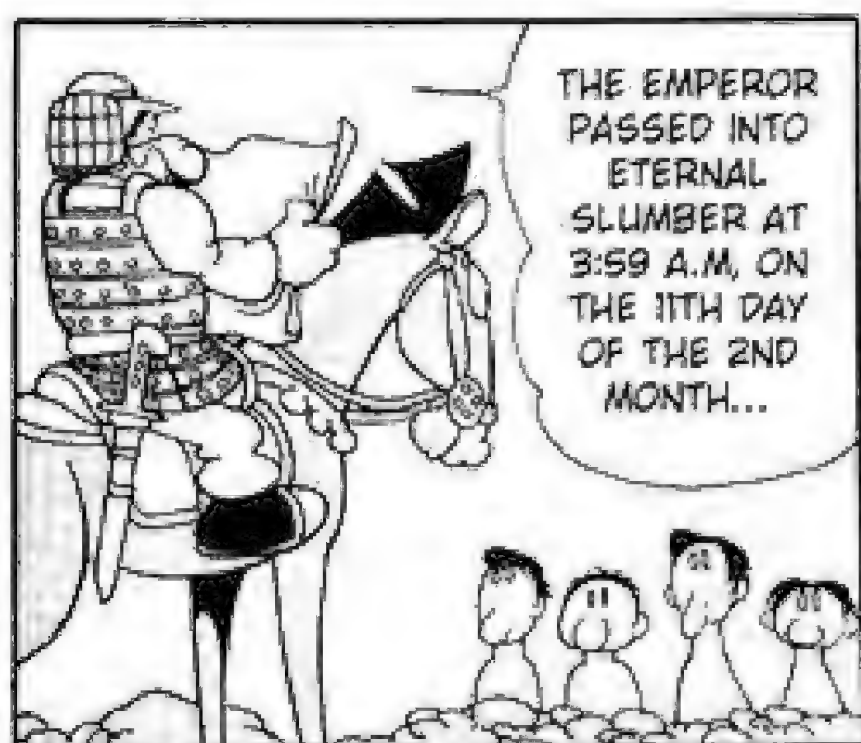
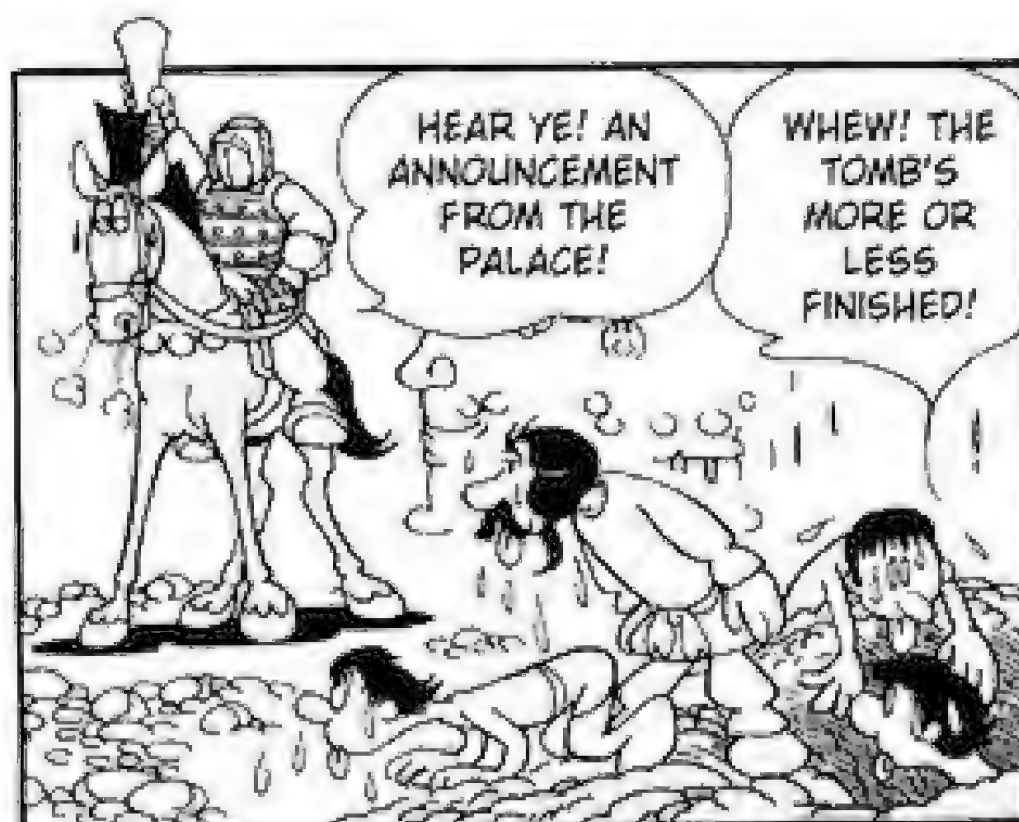
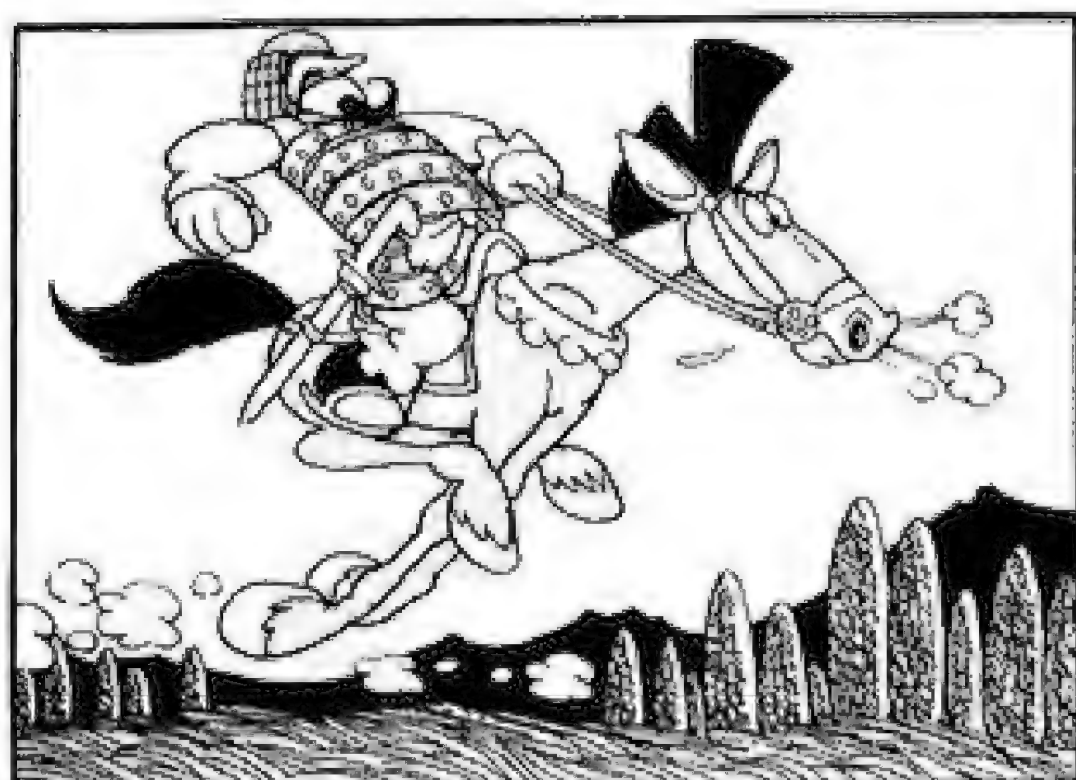


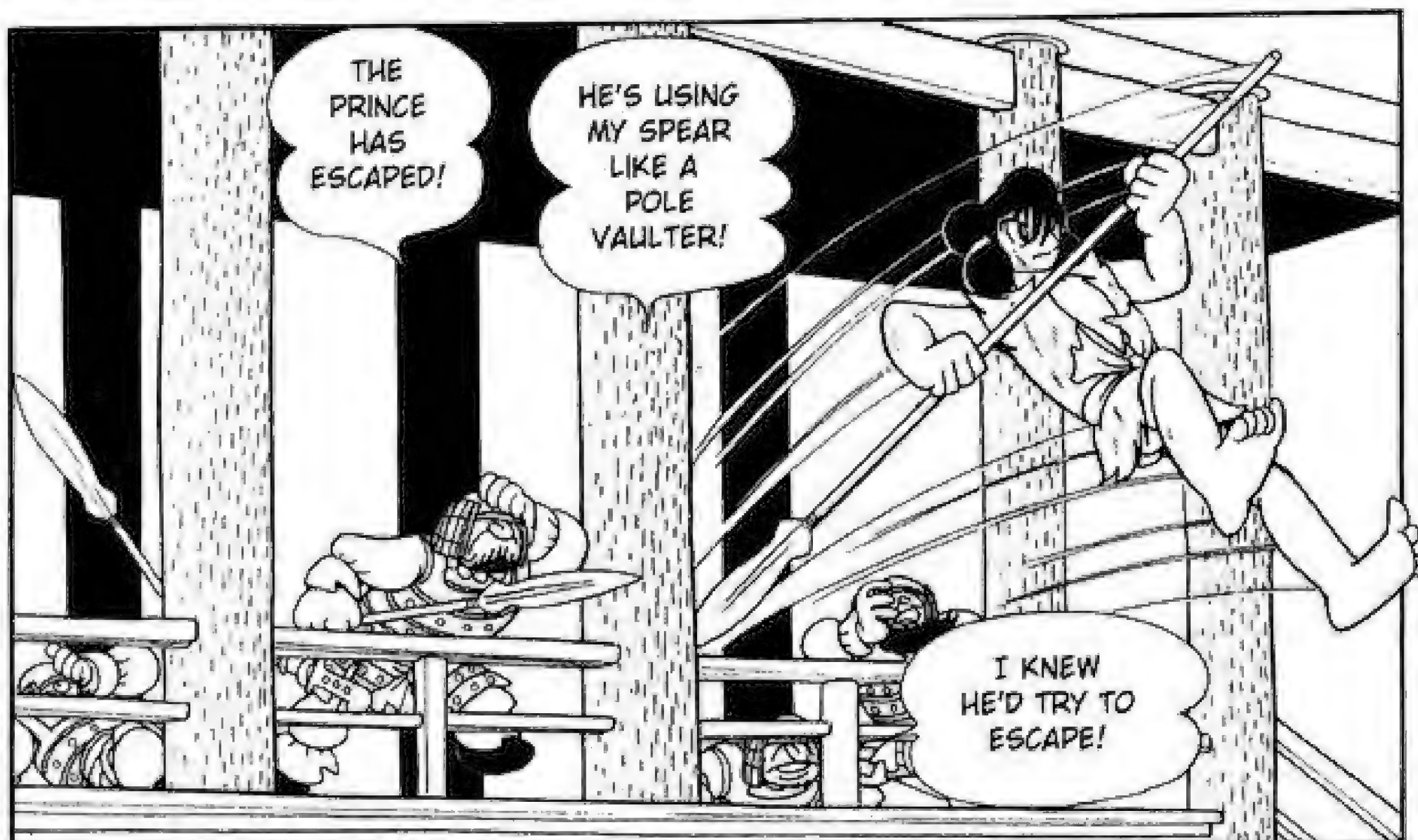
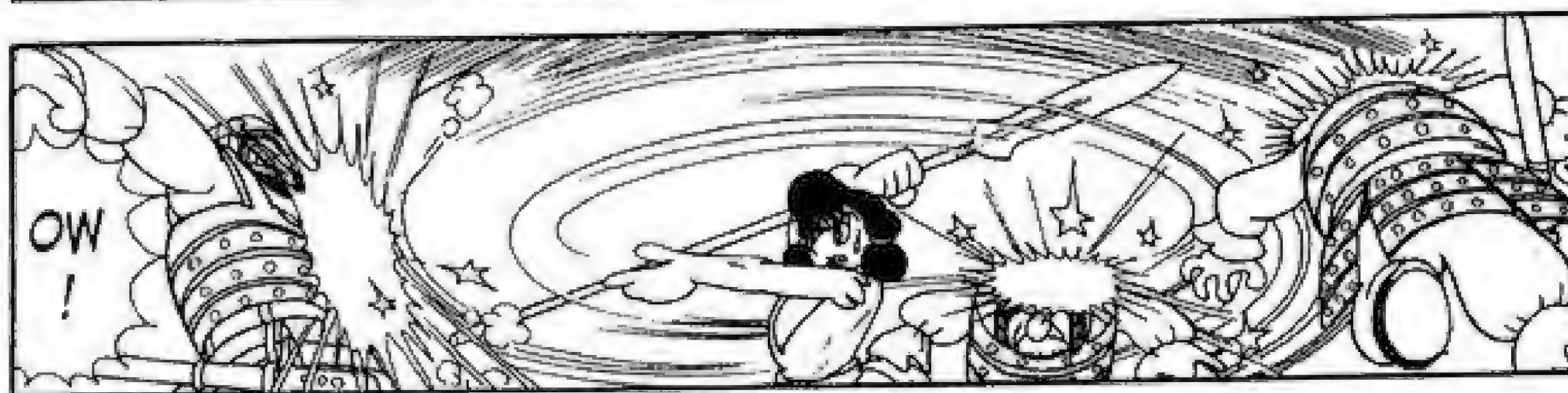
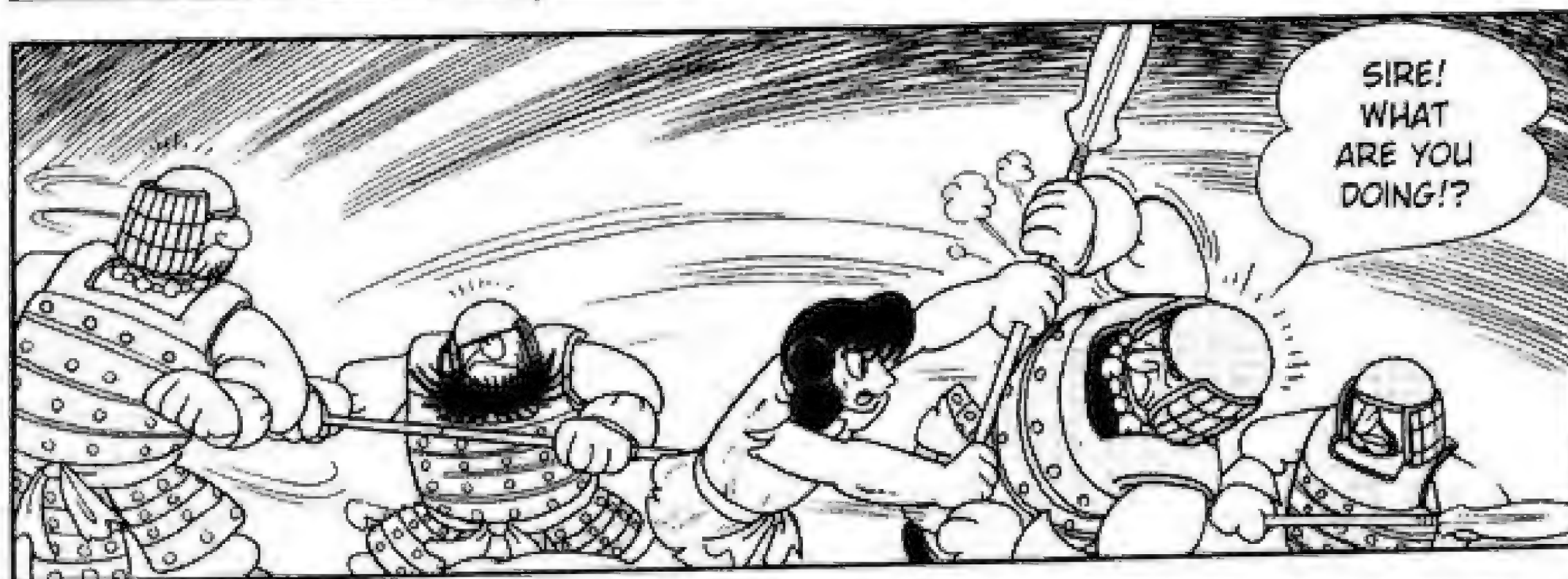
BUT I
HAVE TO
DIE!

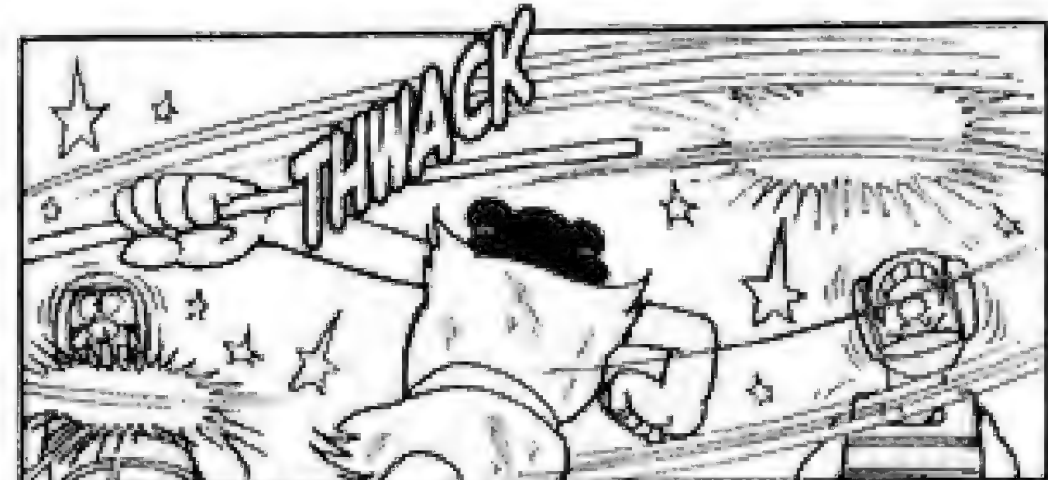
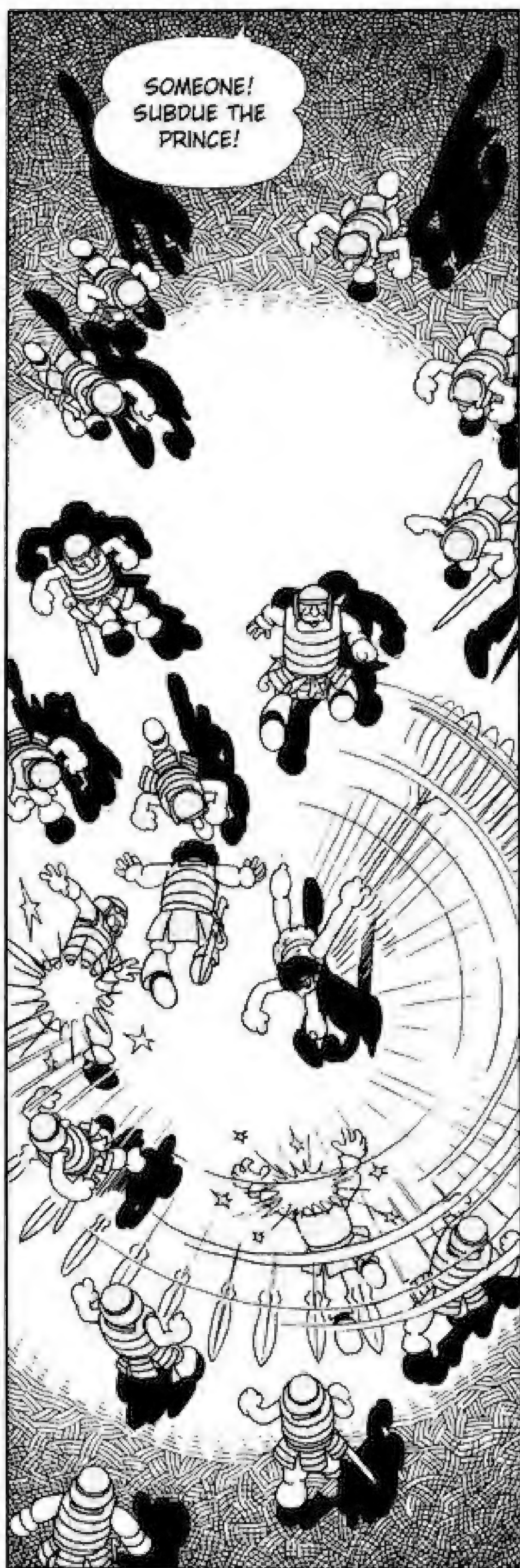
BOO
HOO

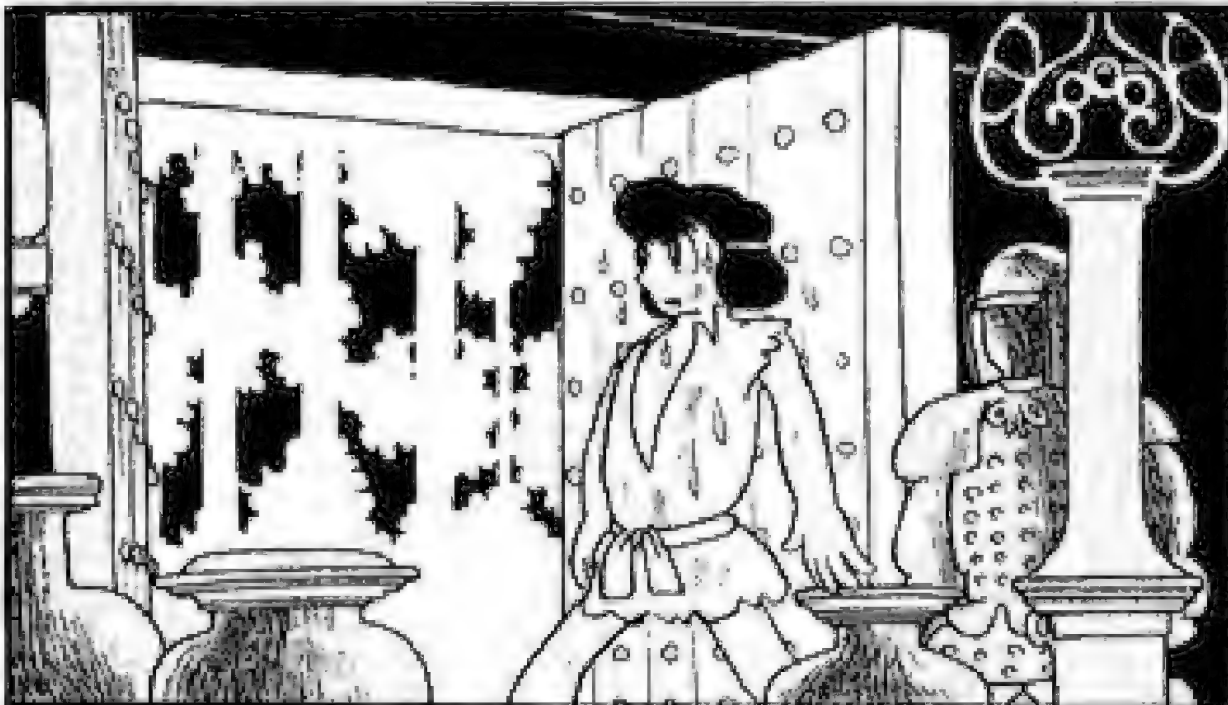
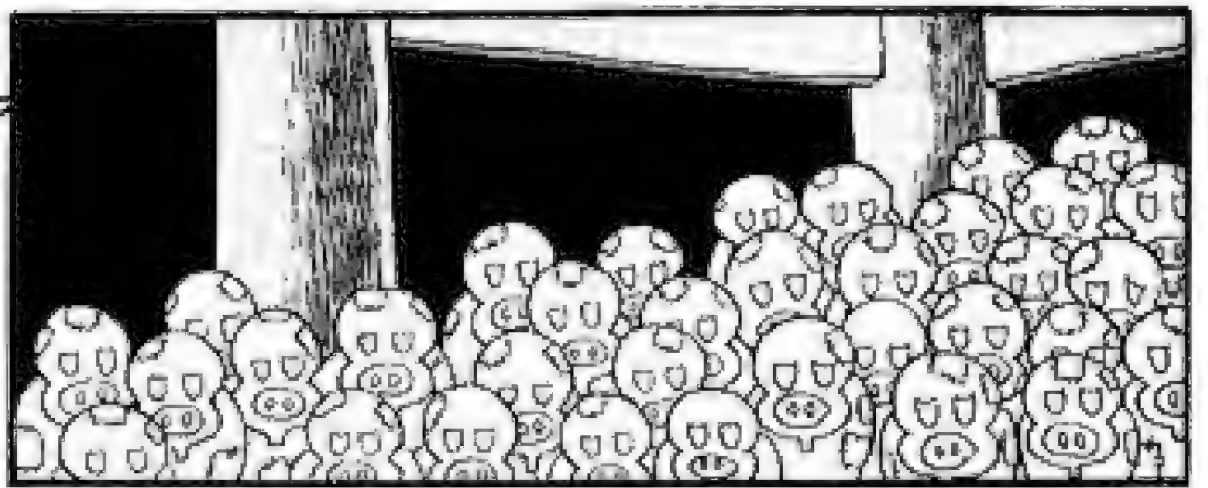
IT'S
ALL
OVER...

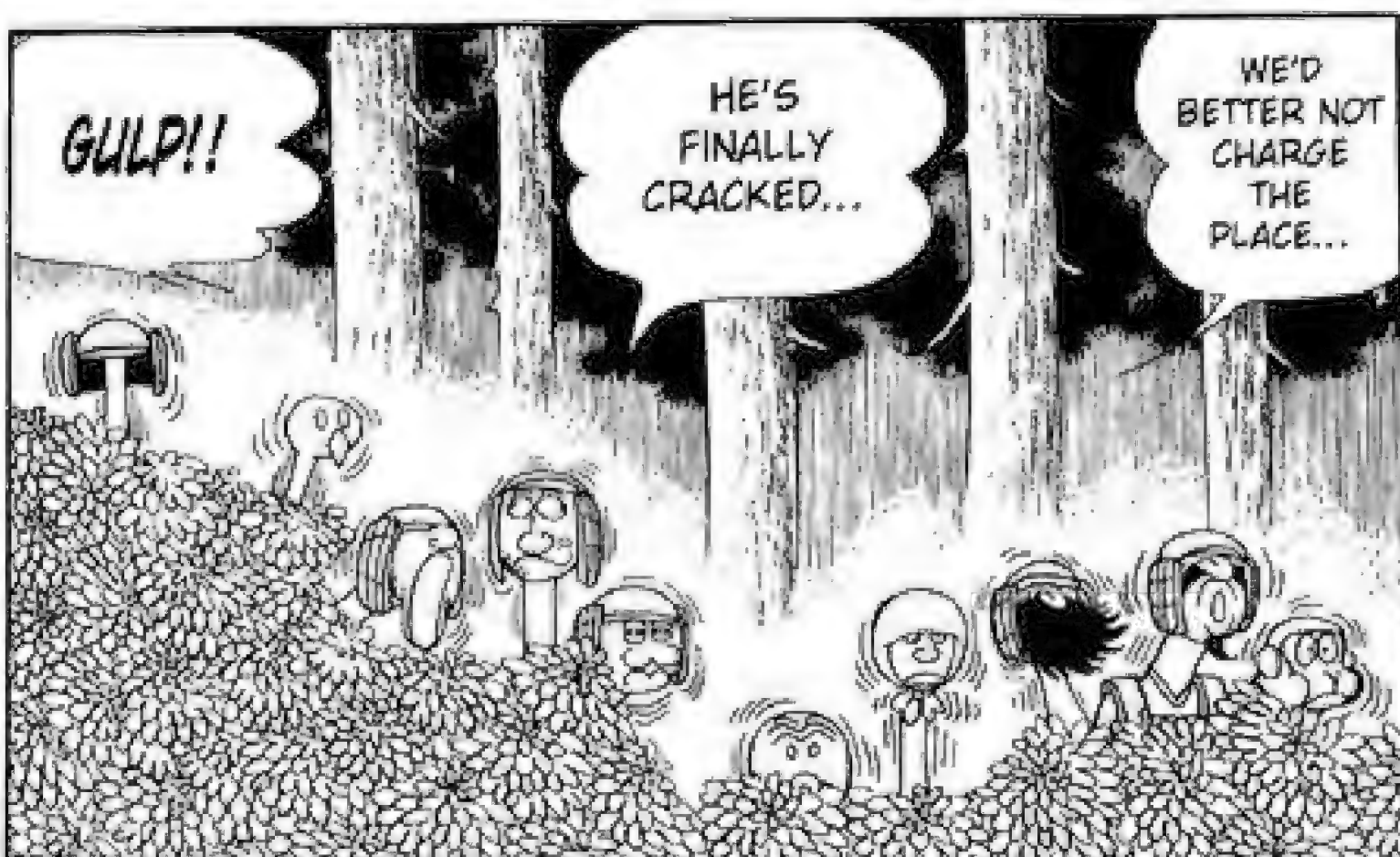
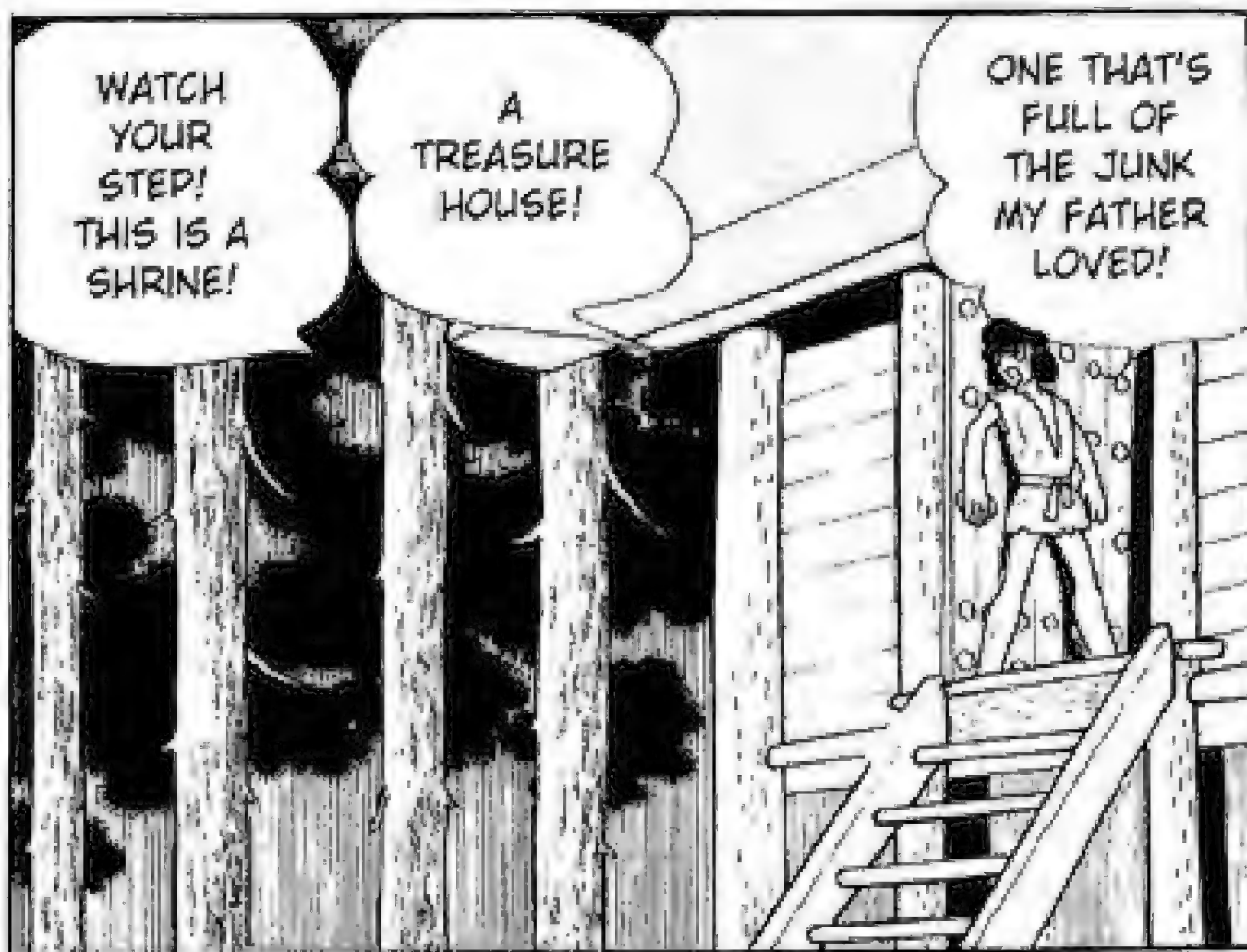
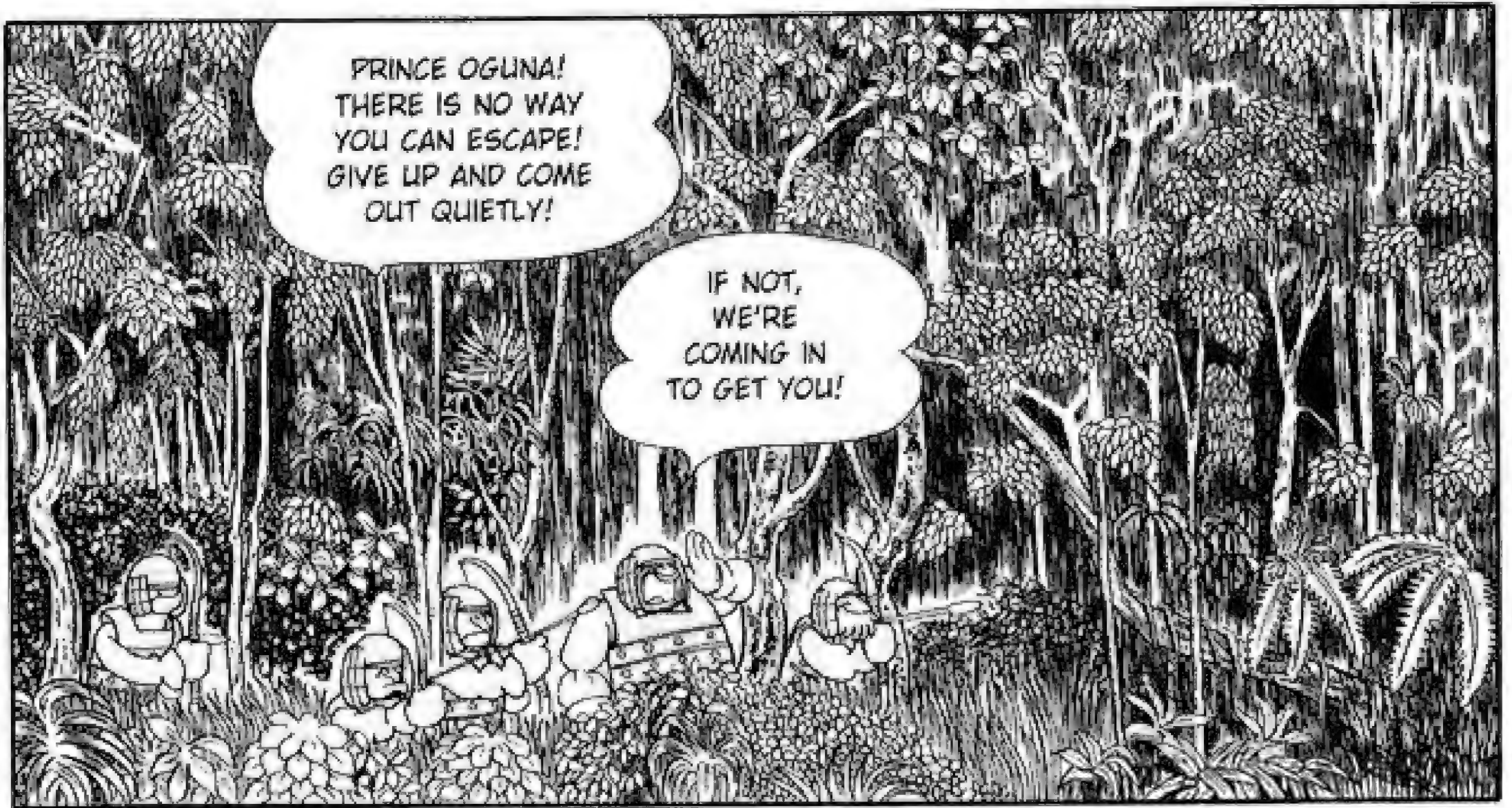
BOO
HOO

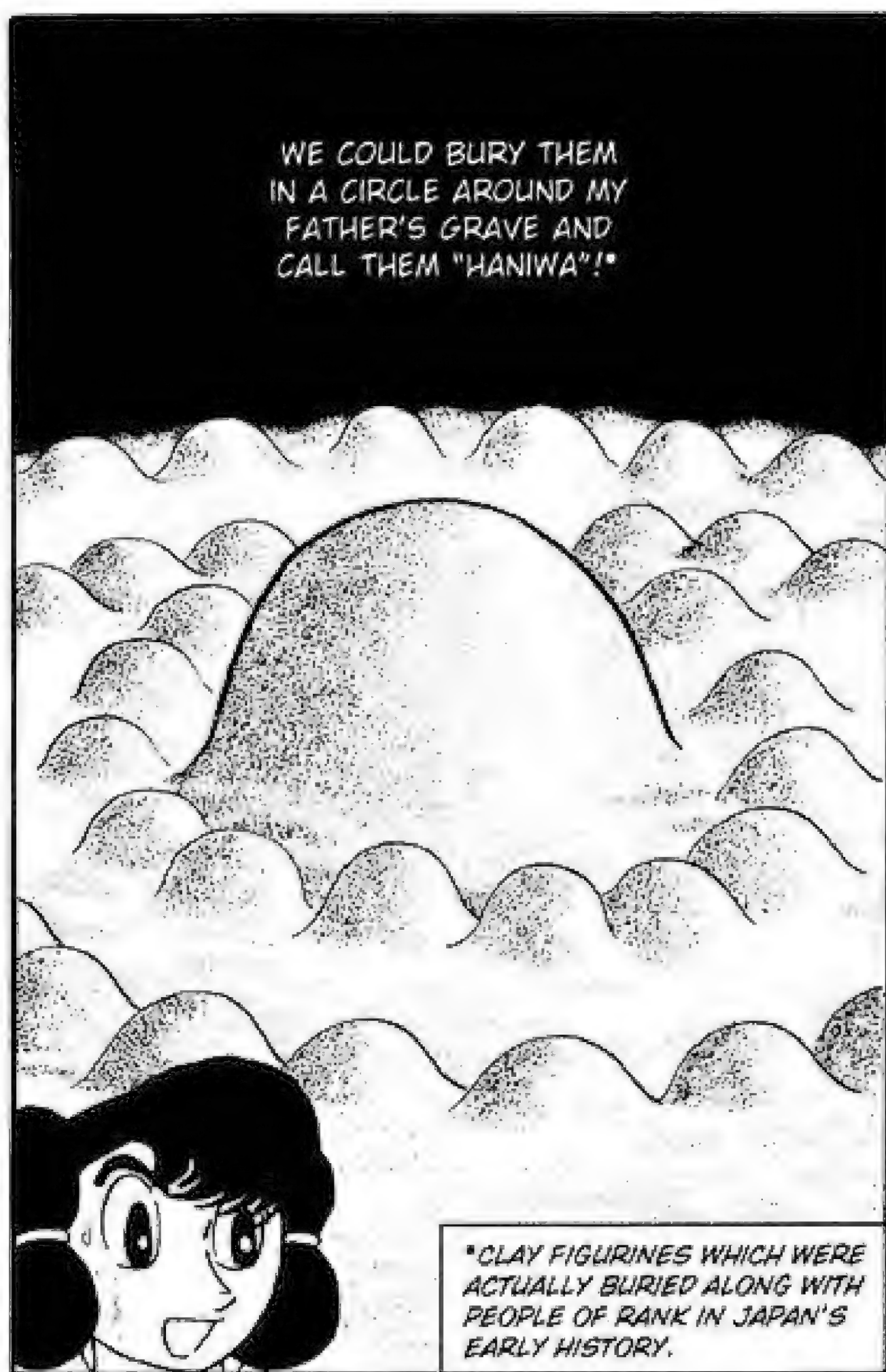
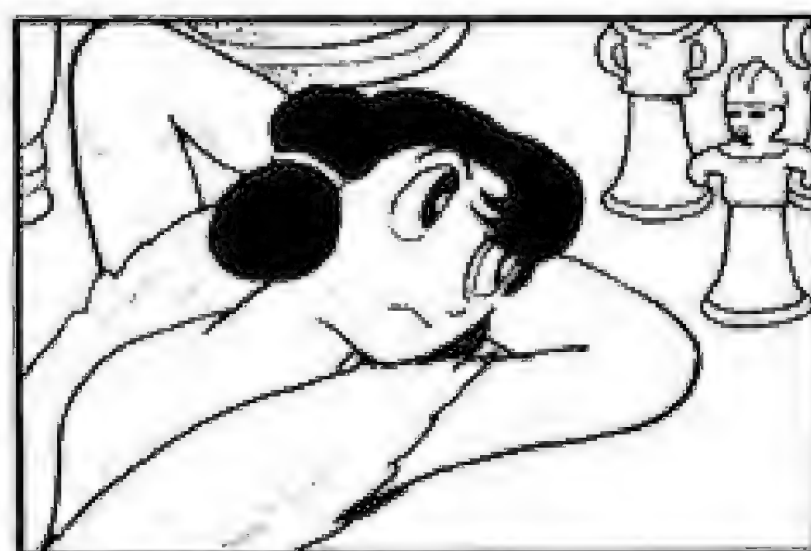
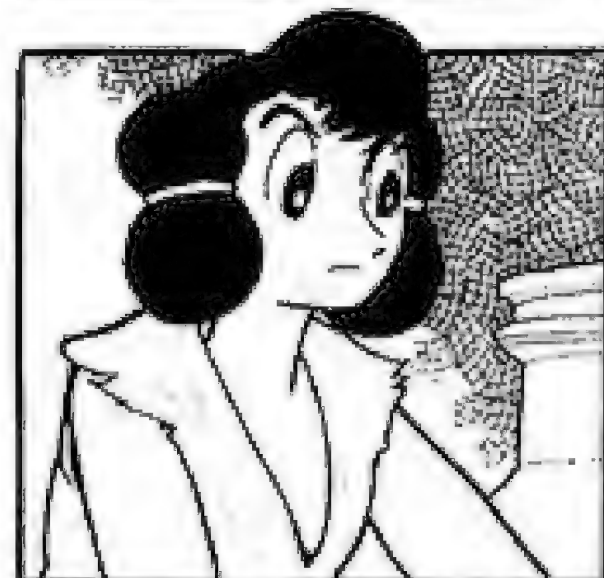
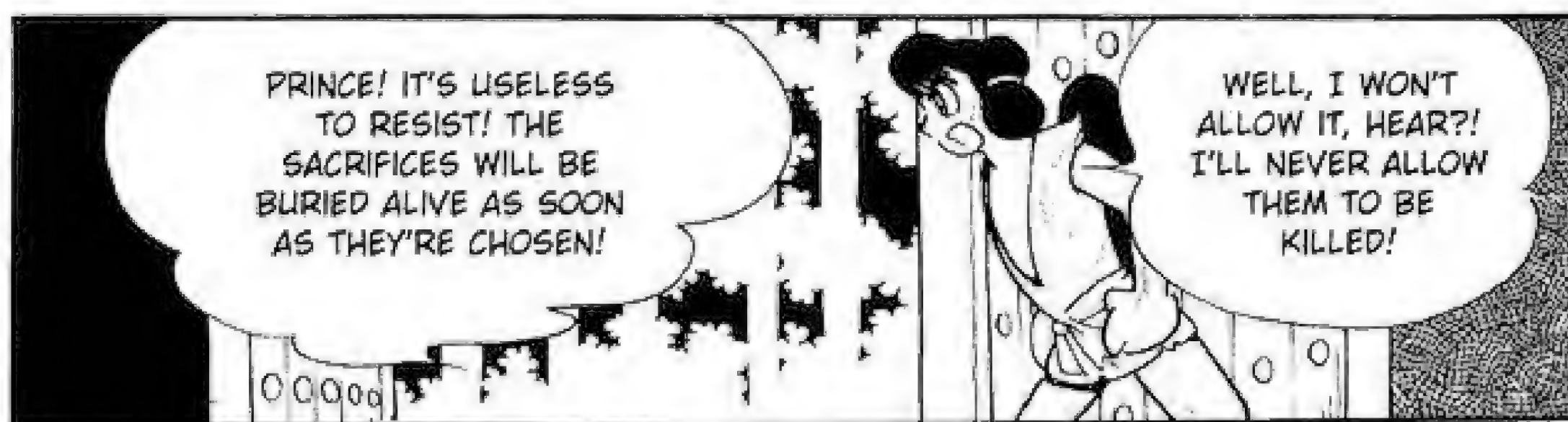


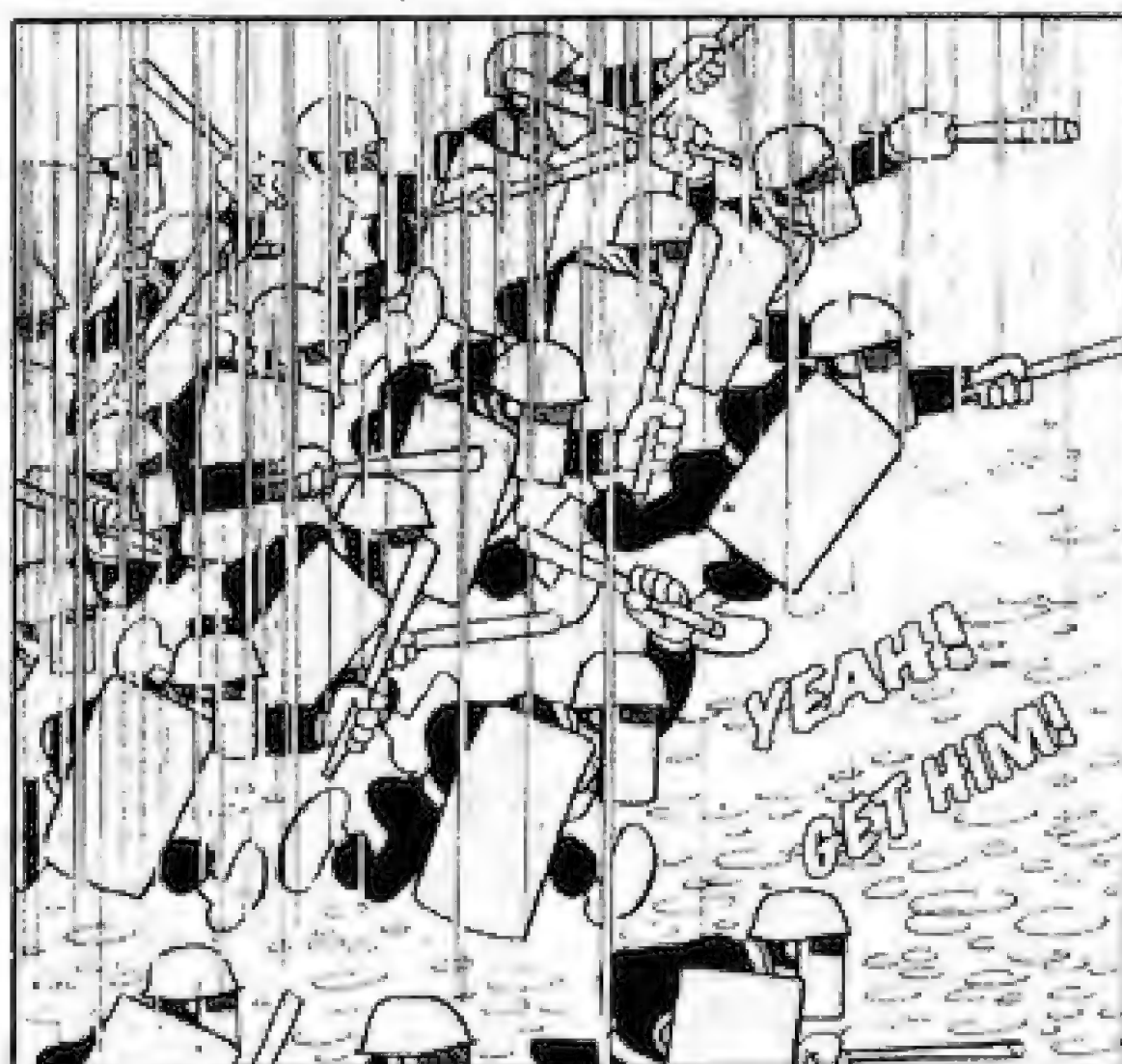
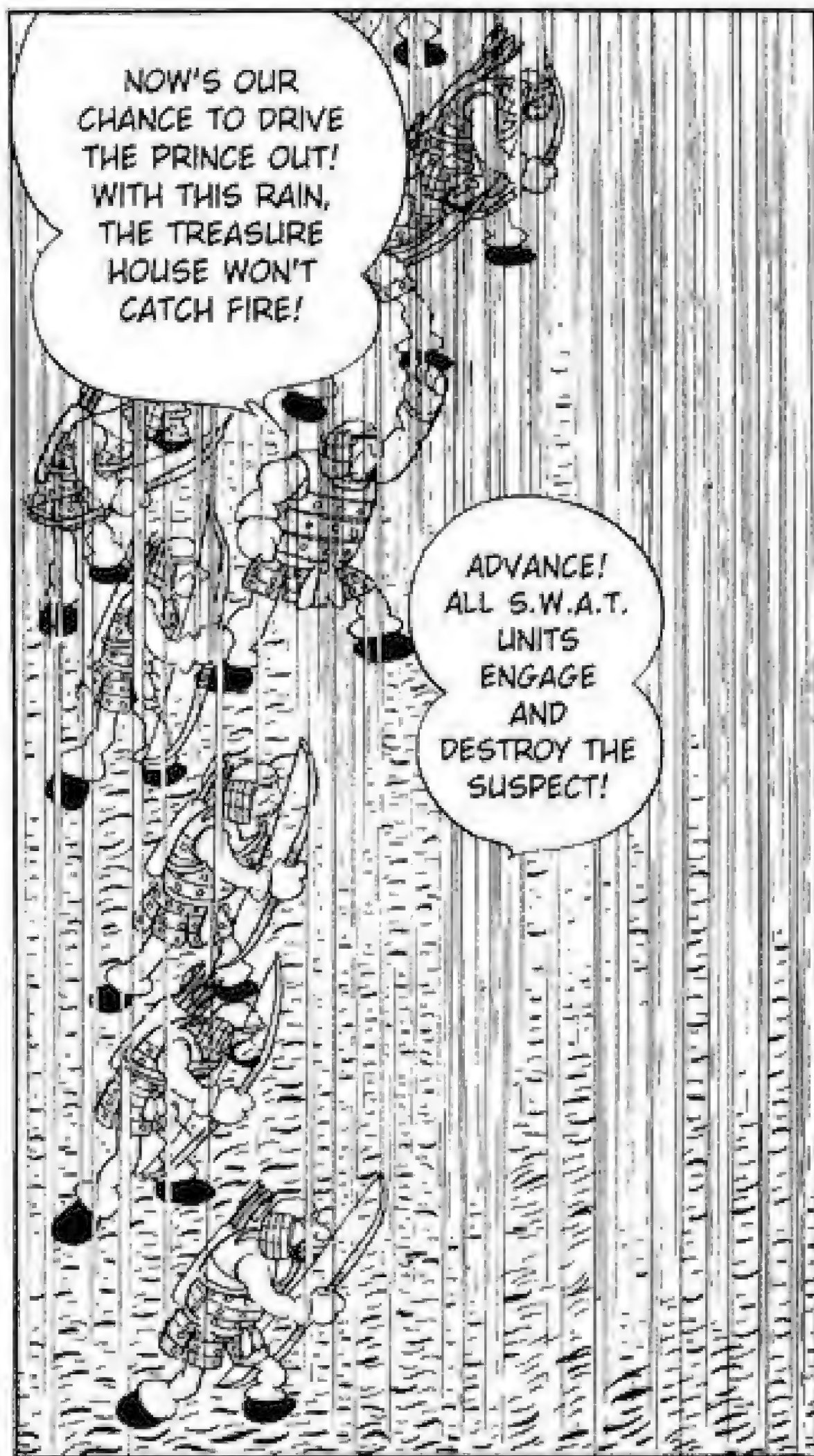


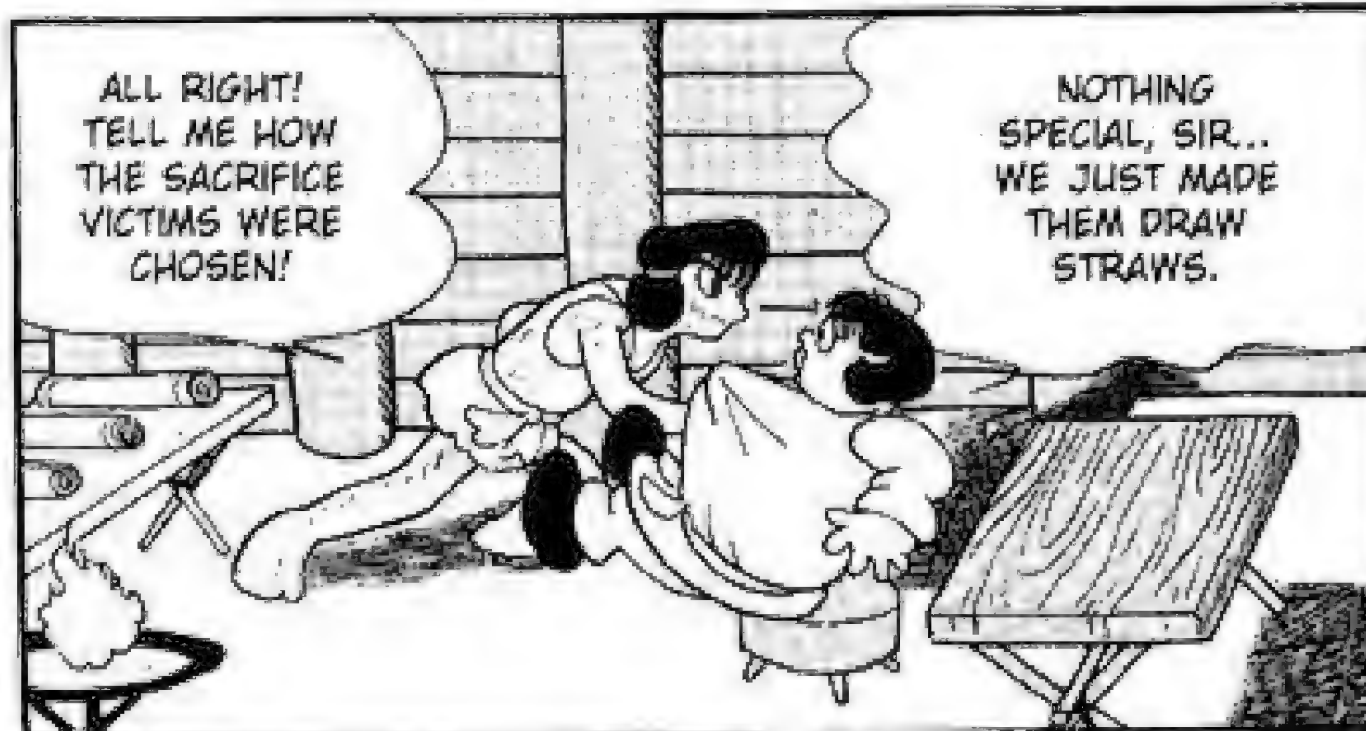
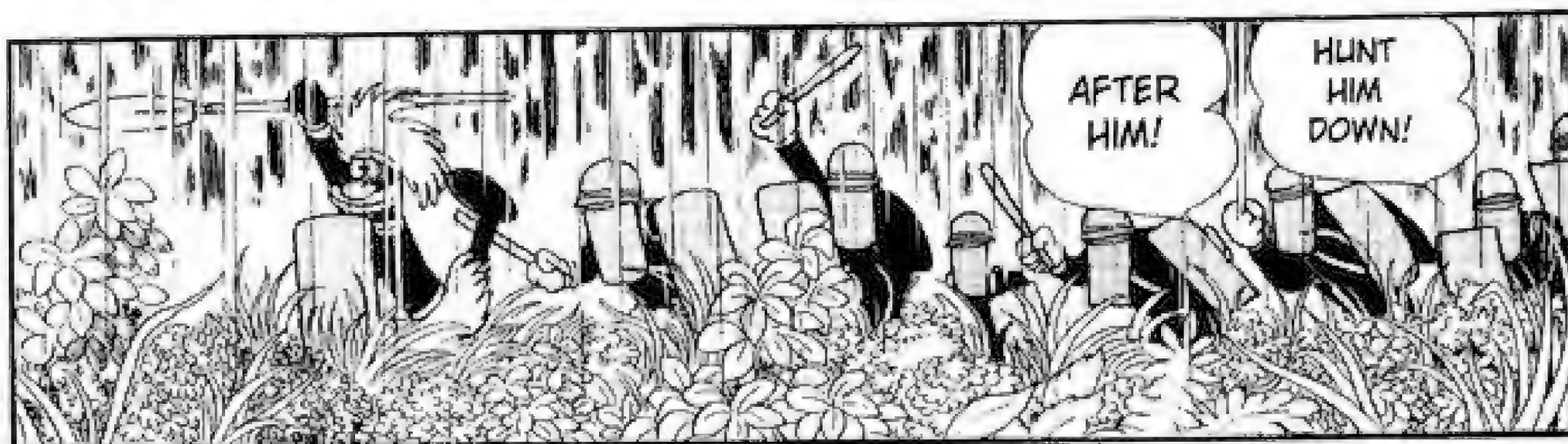
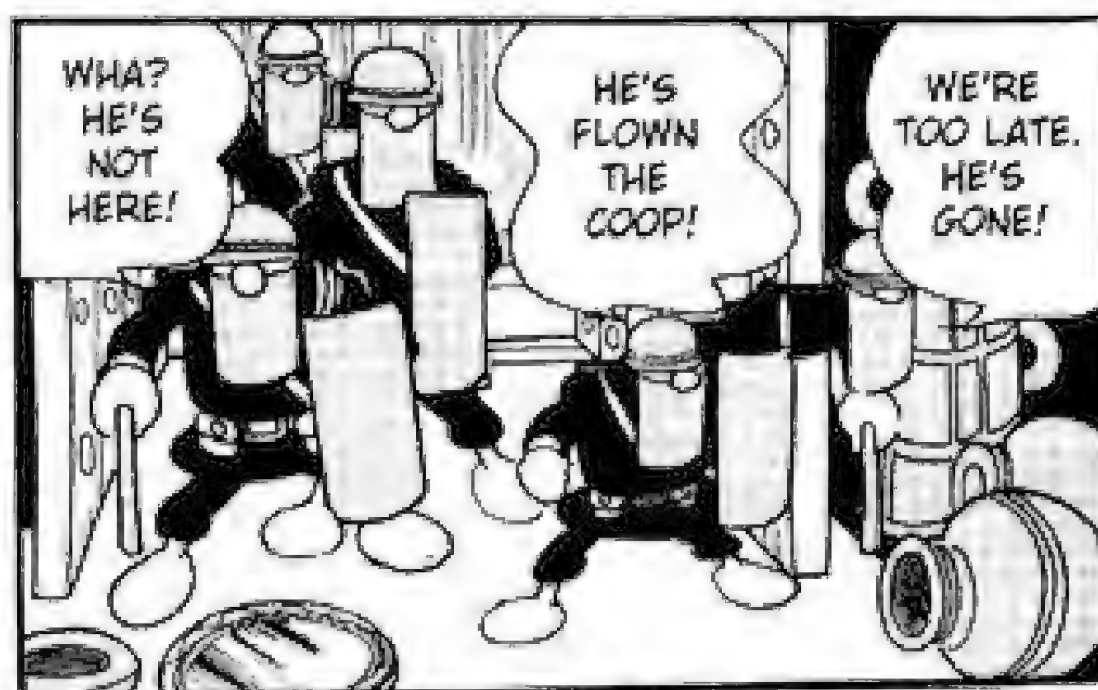


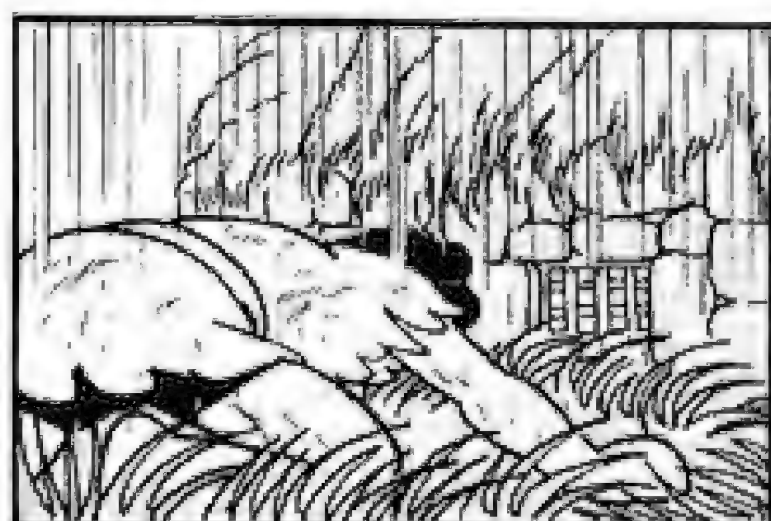
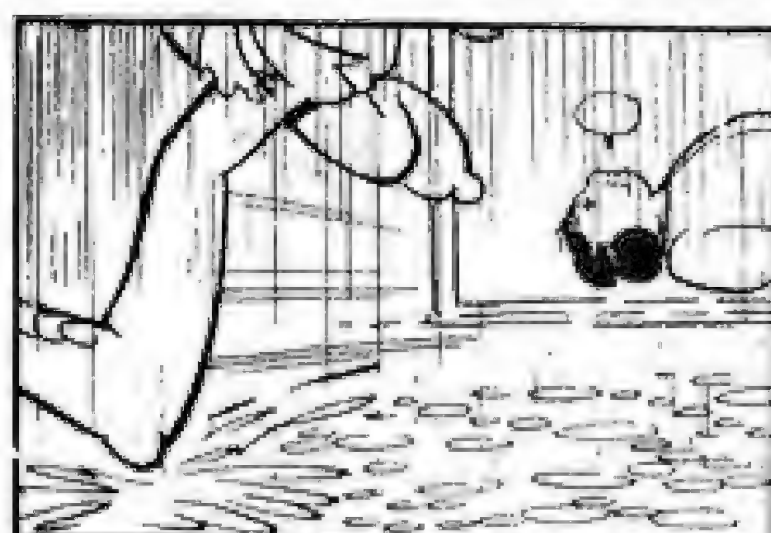
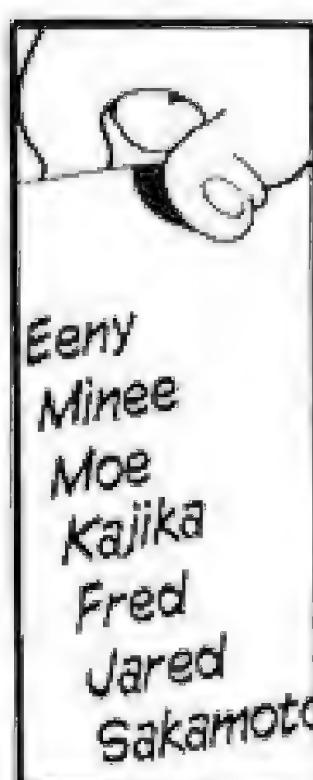
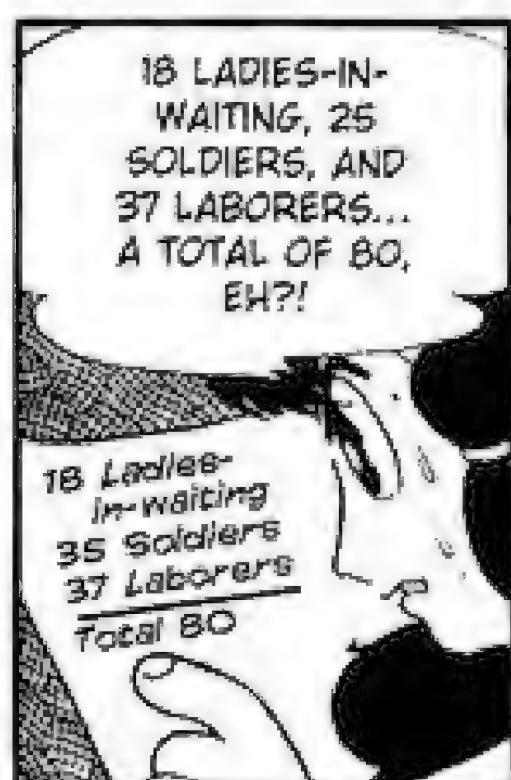


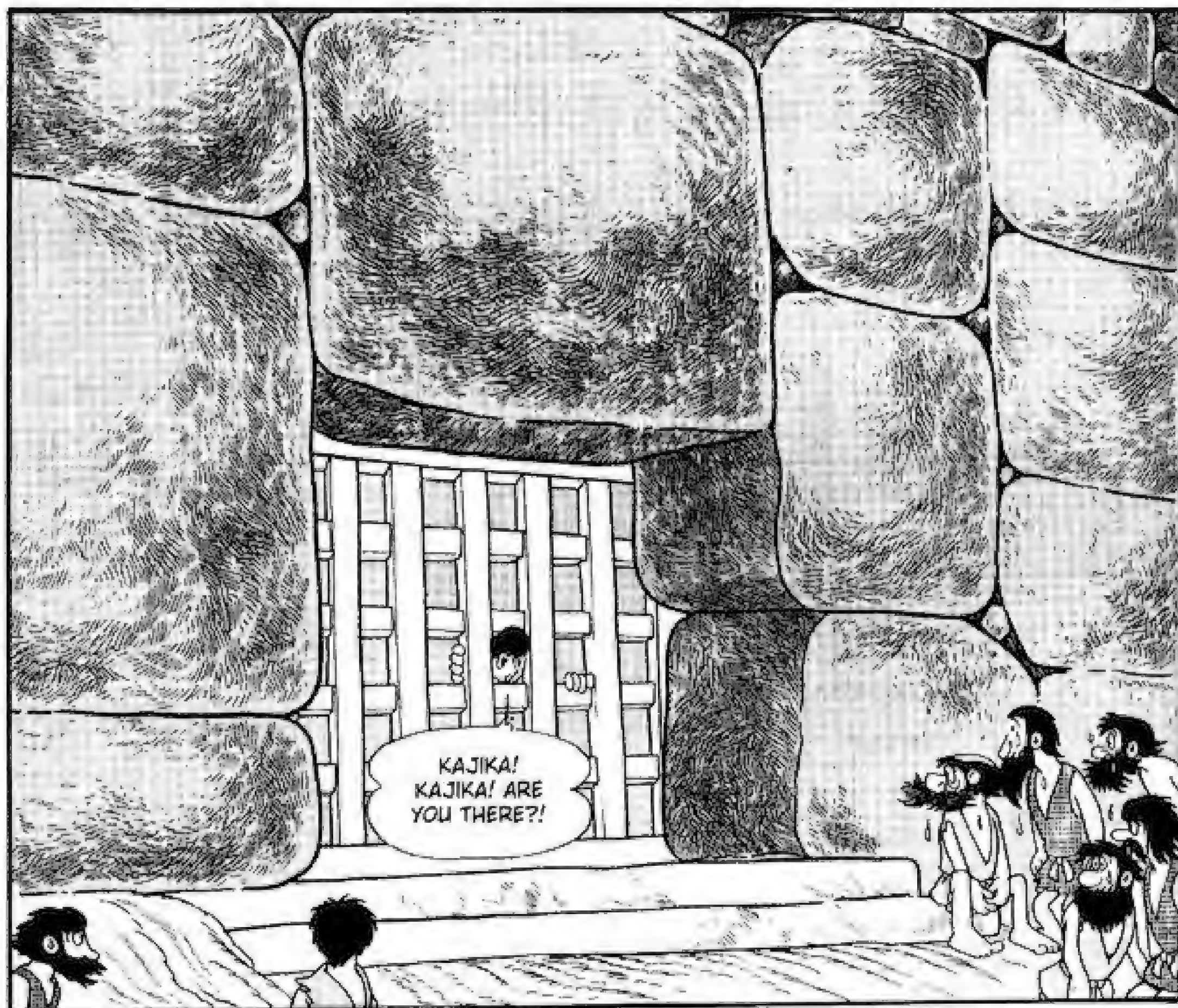


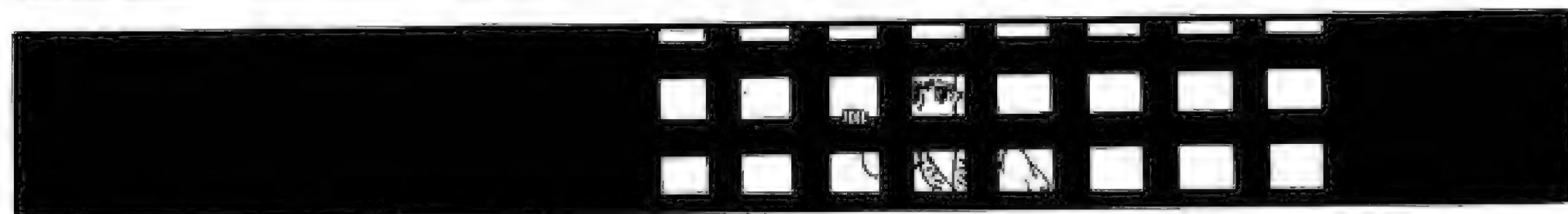


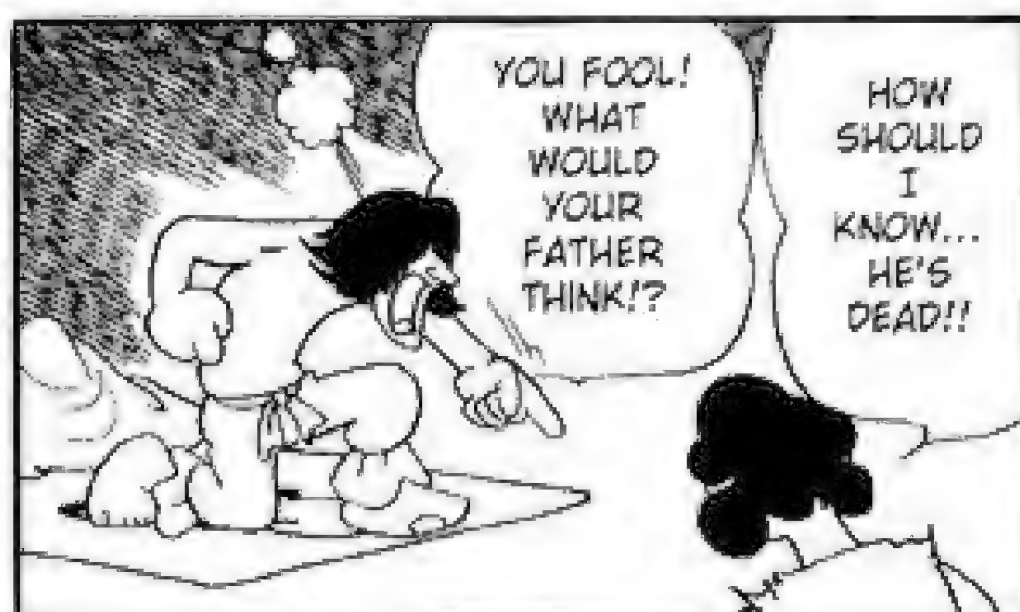
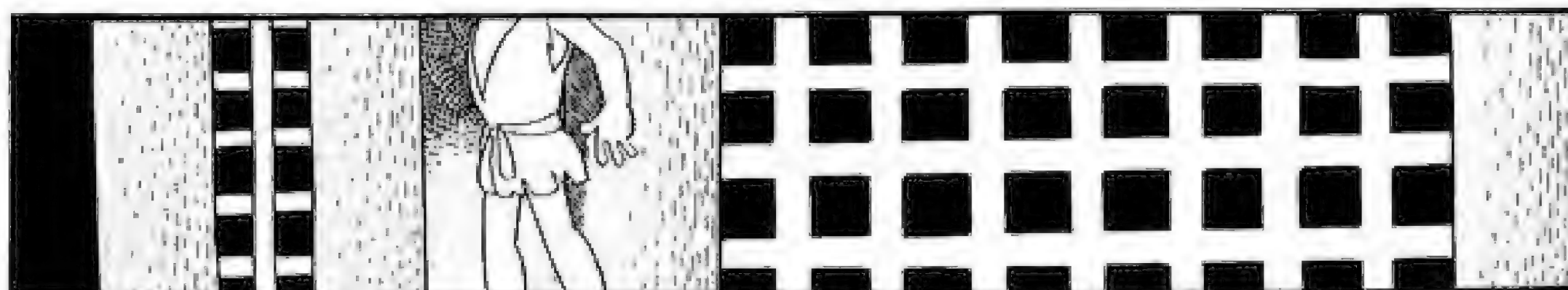
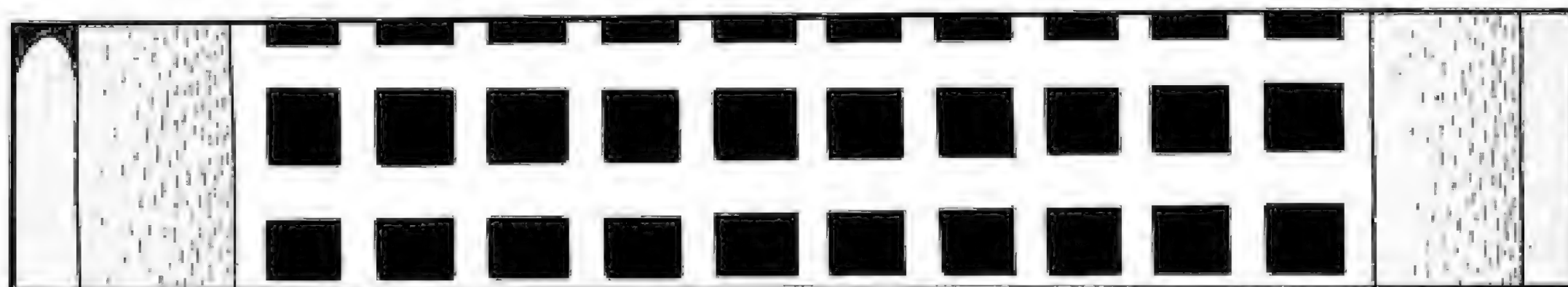


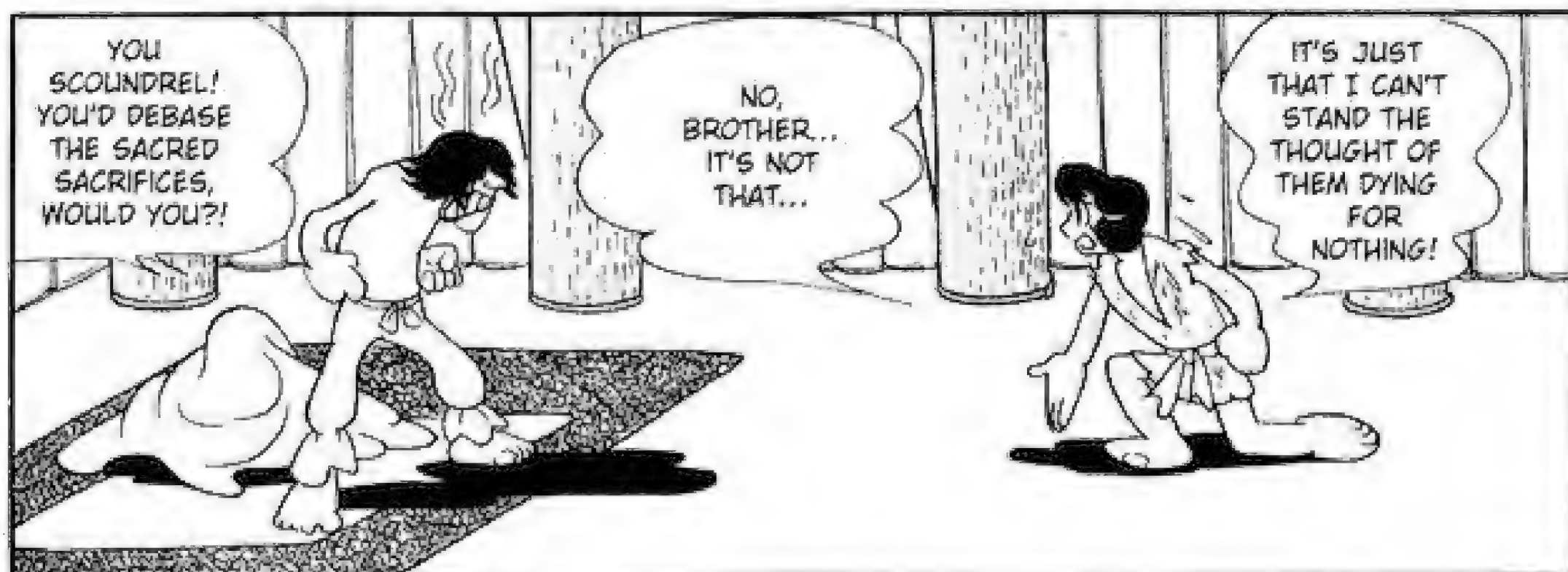




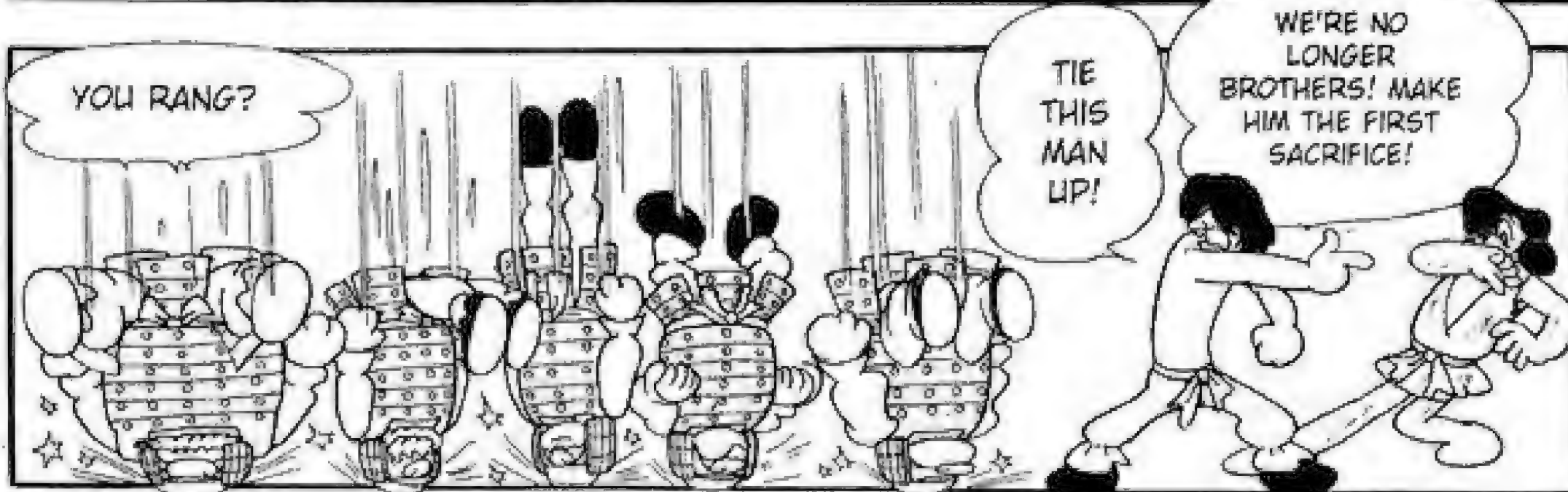
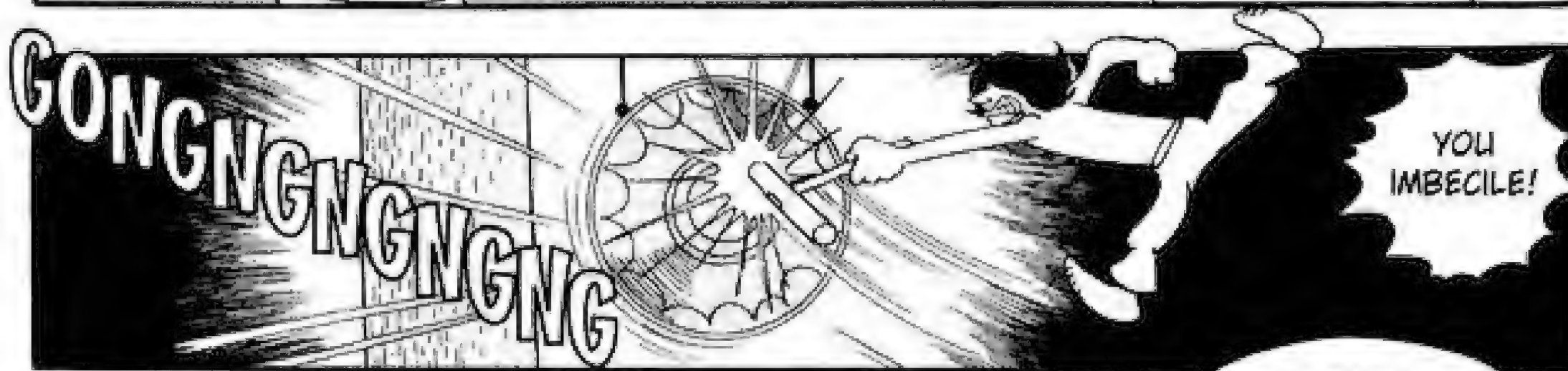
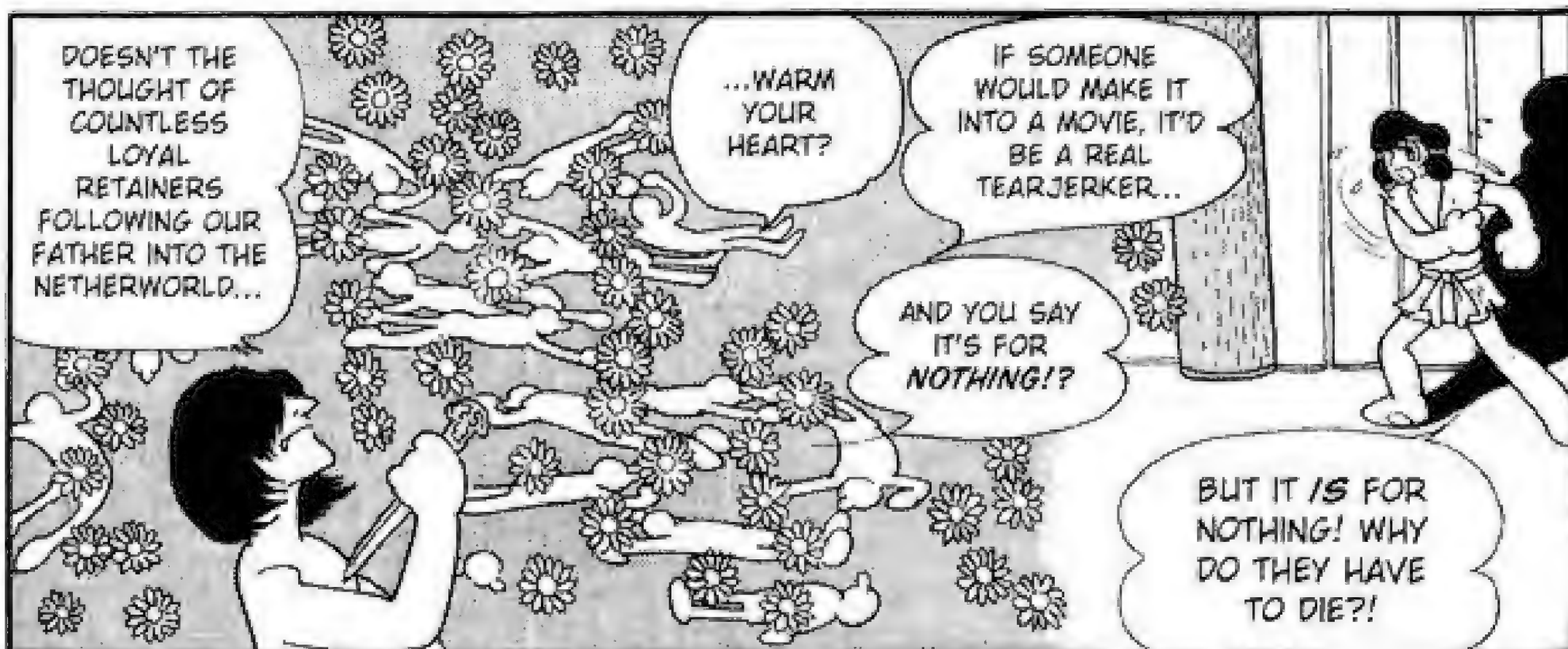


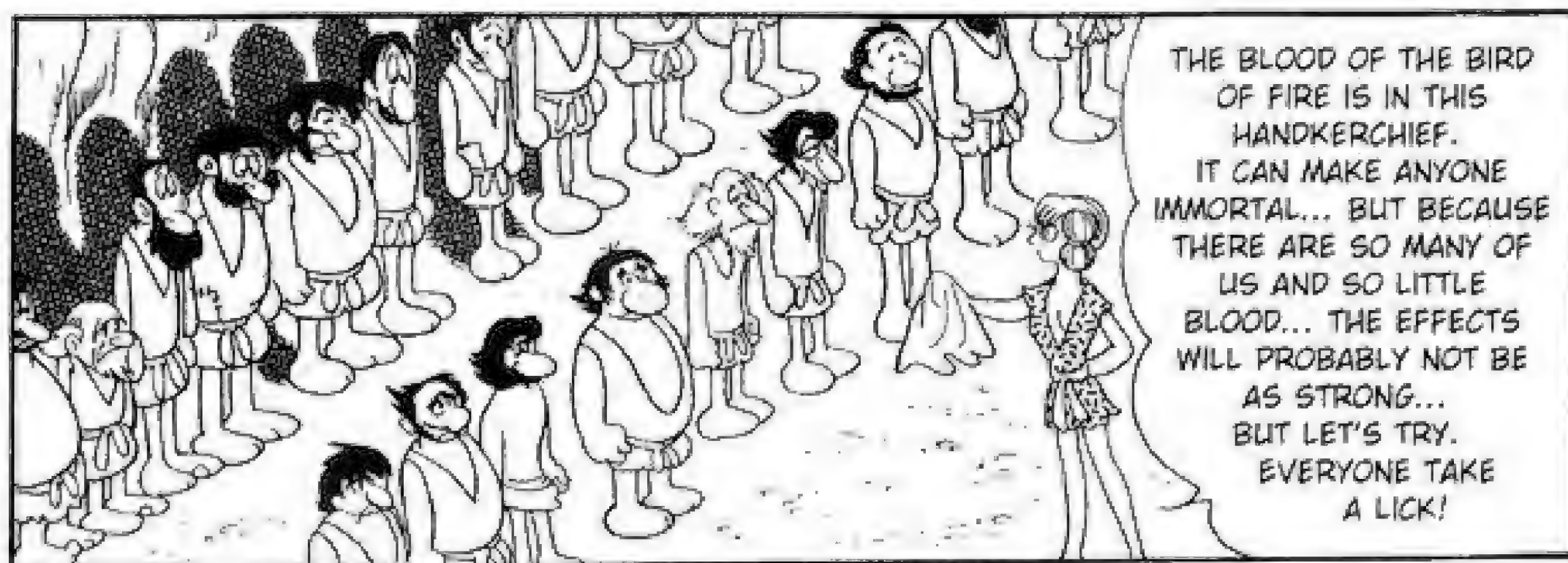
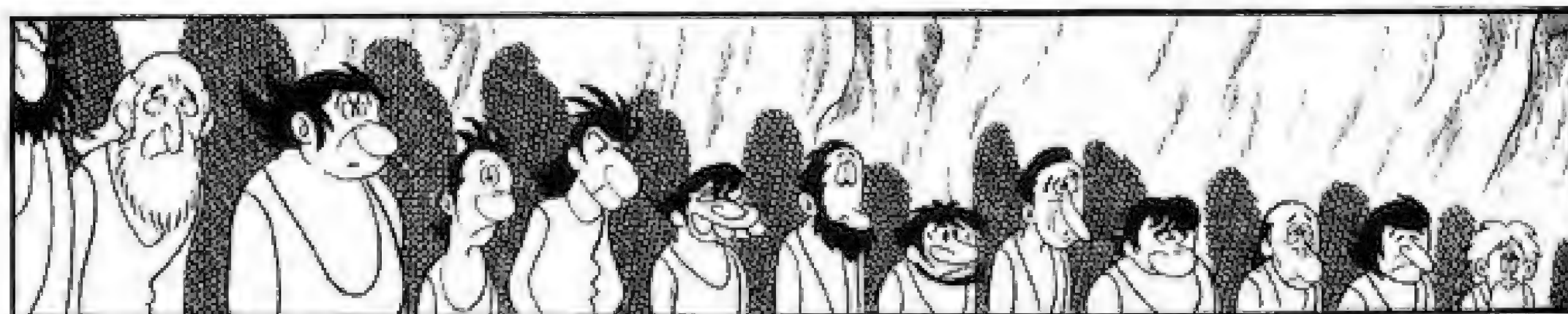
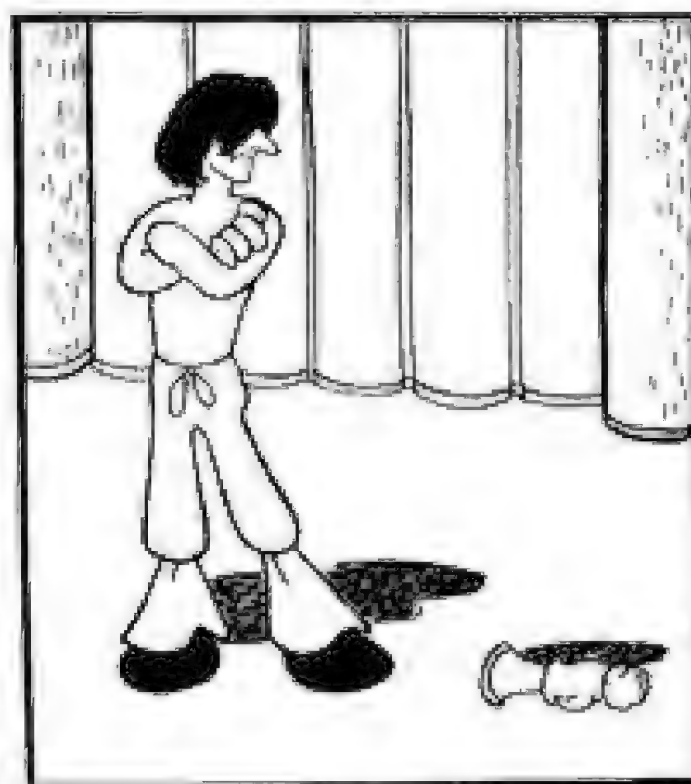
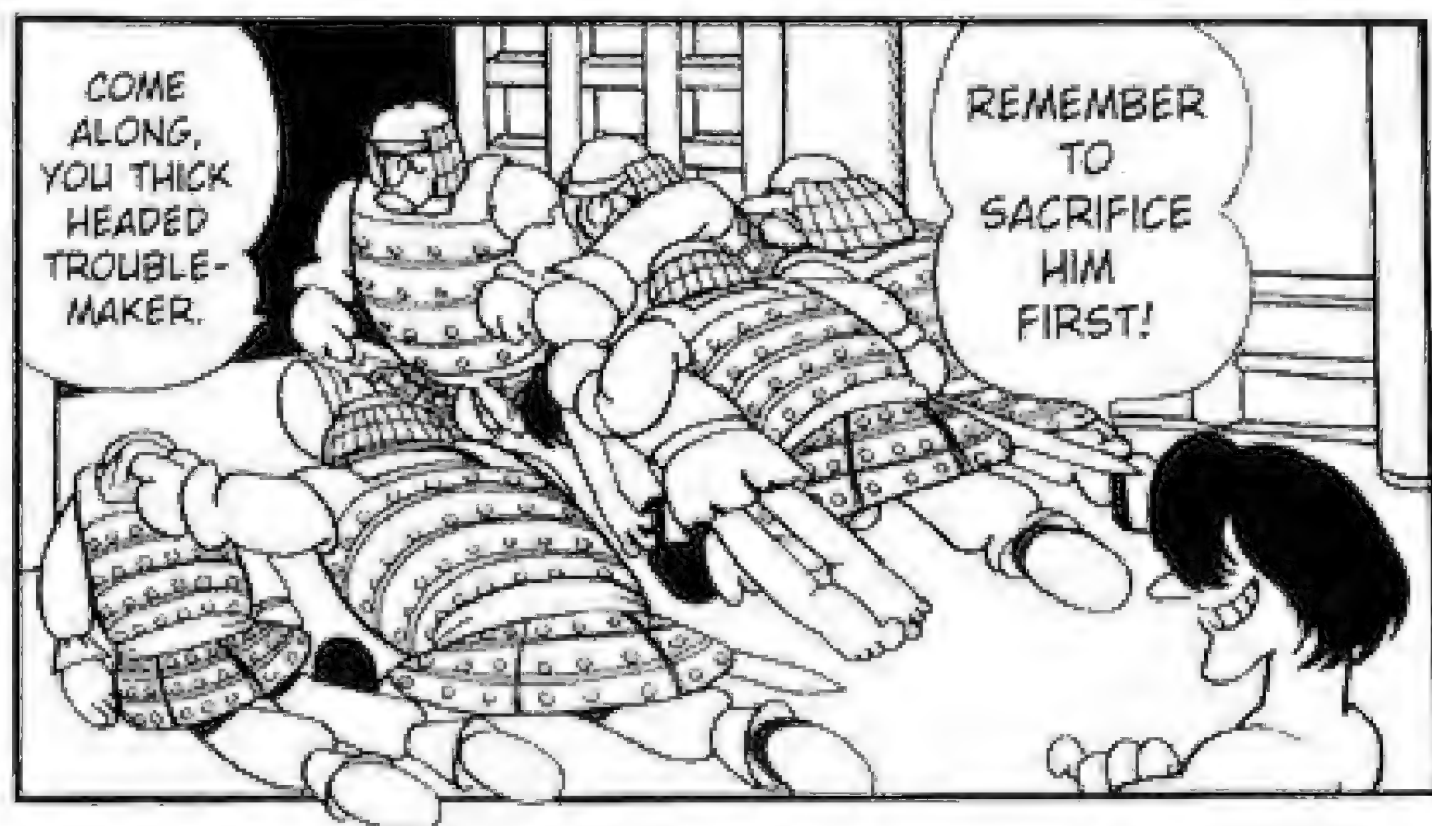


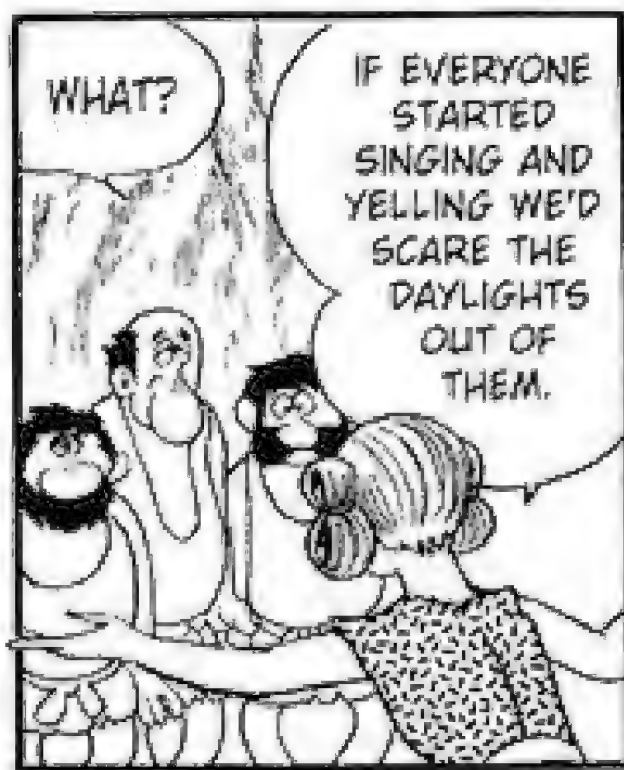


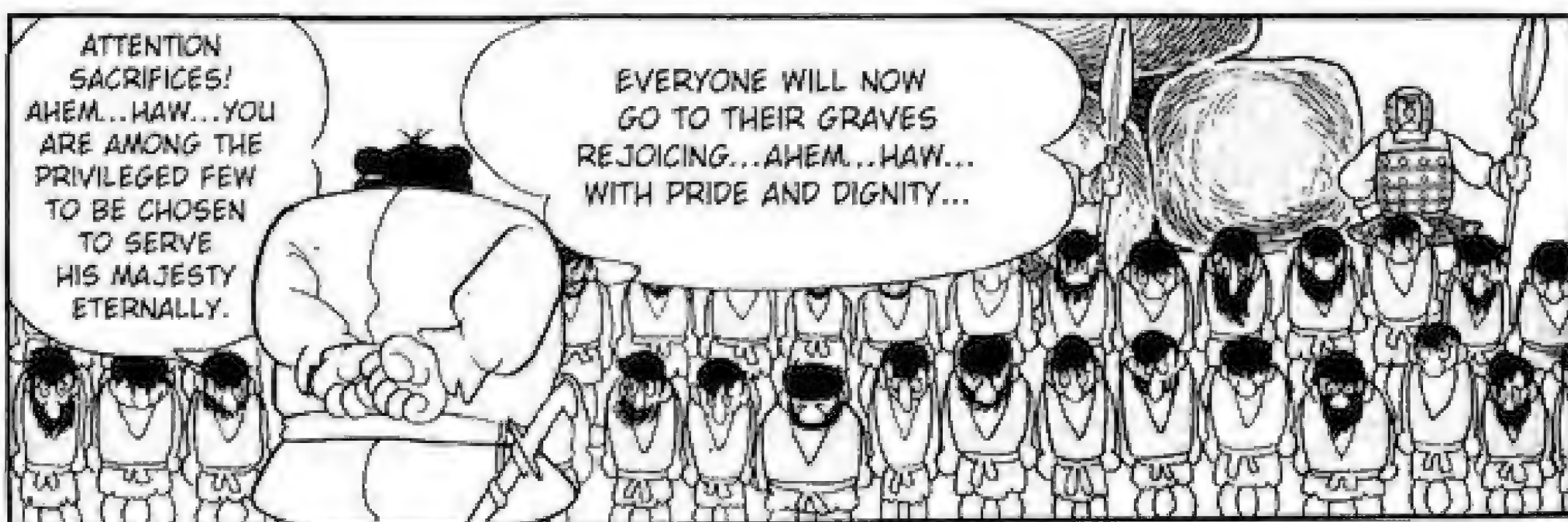
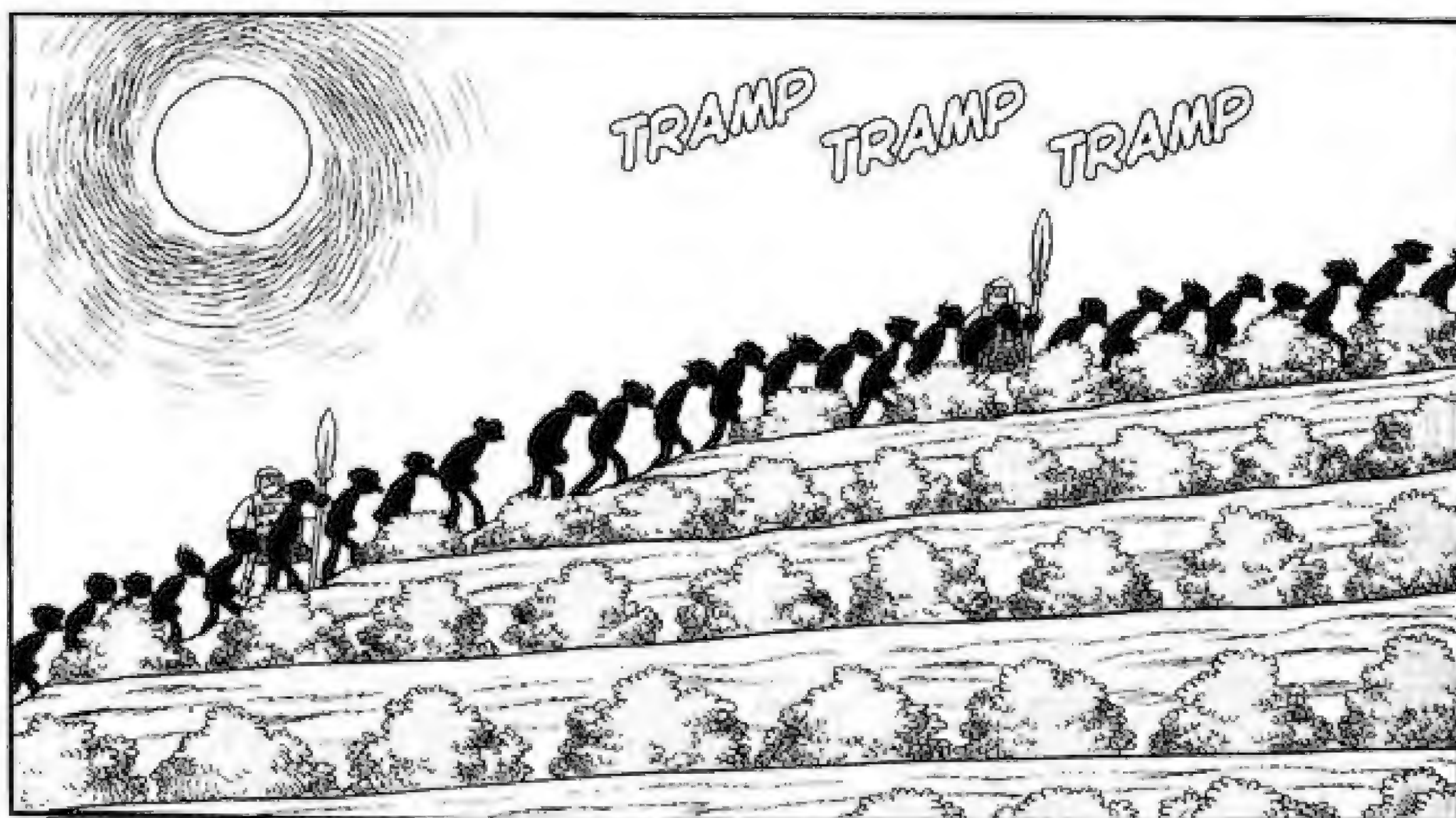


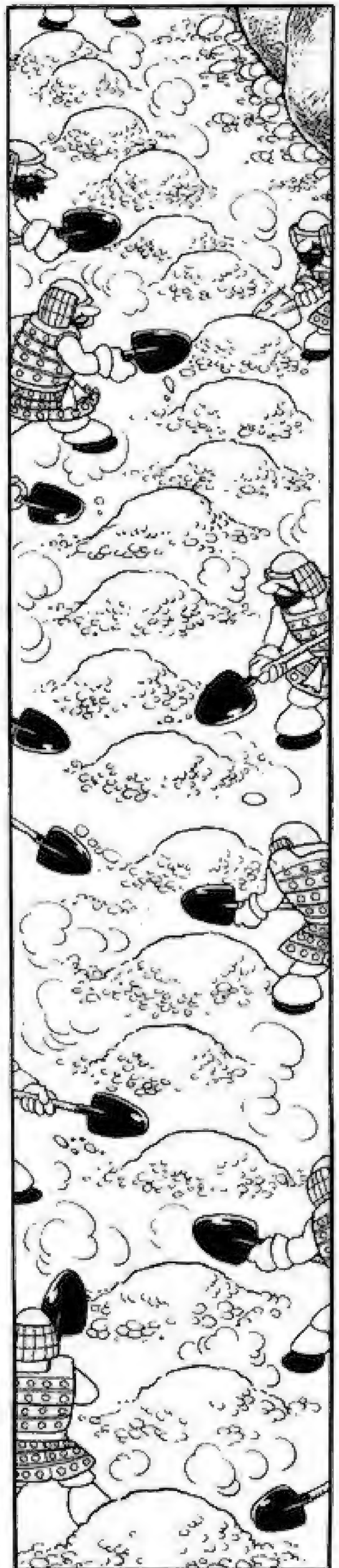
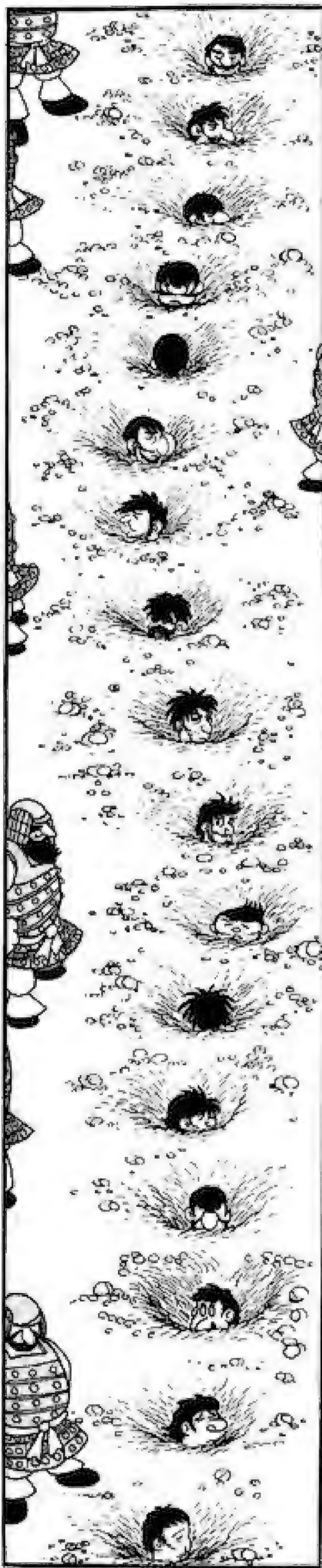
NOTHING?!?

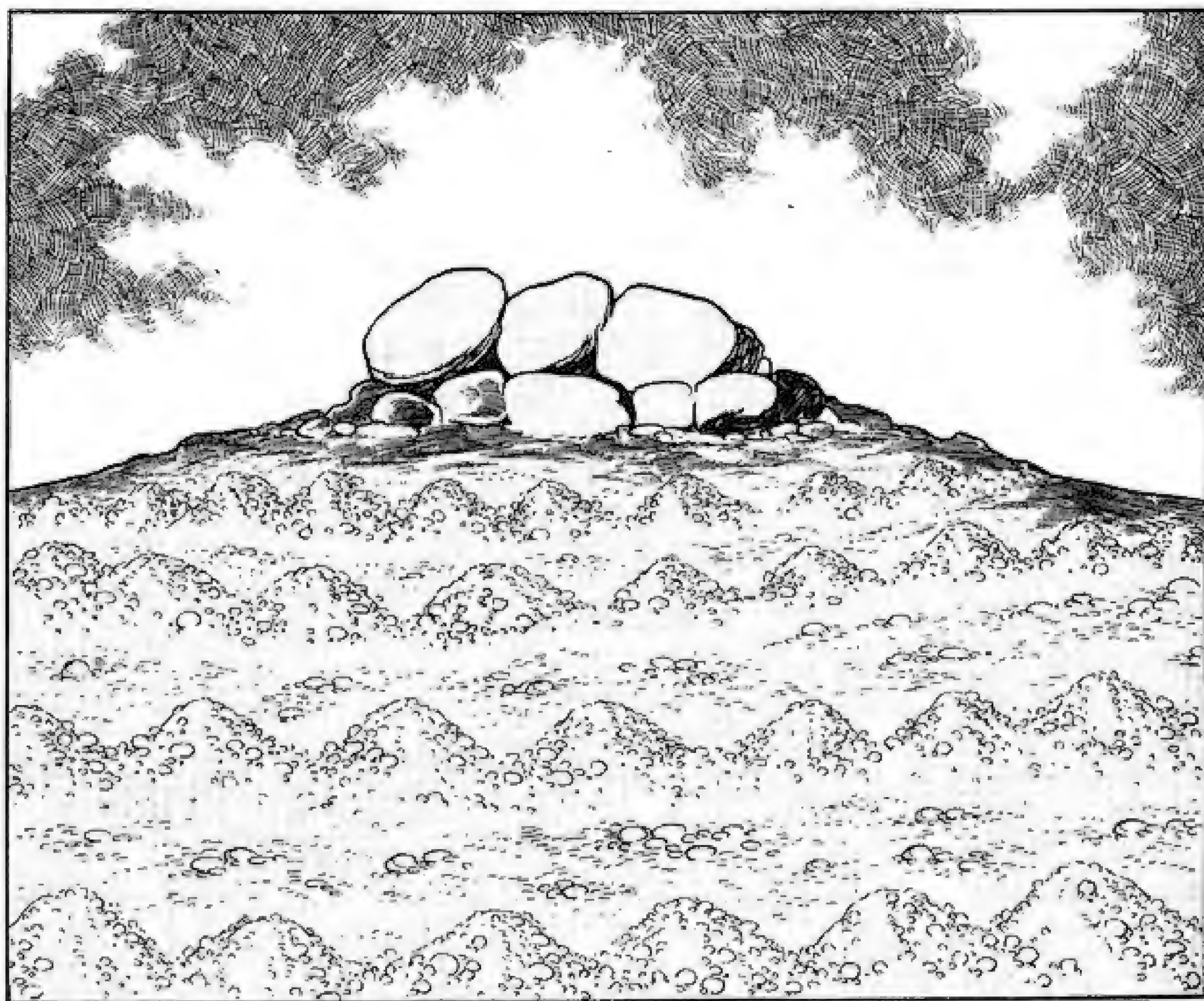


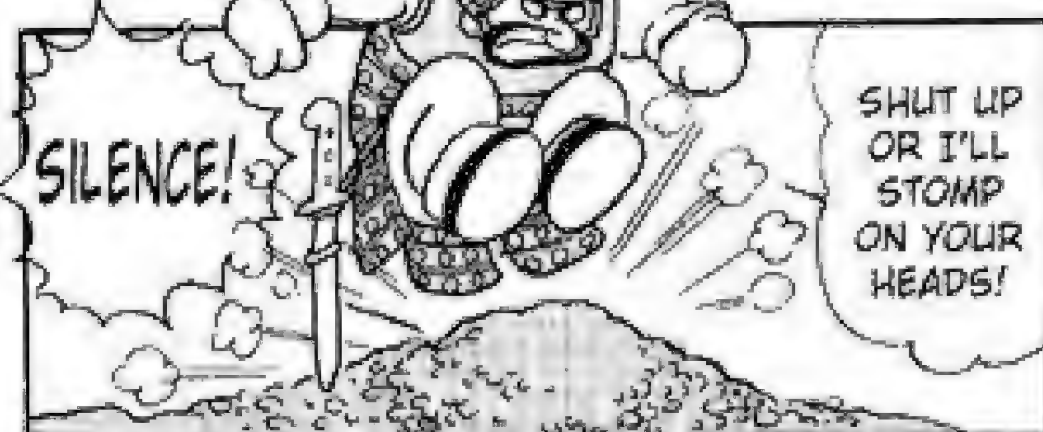
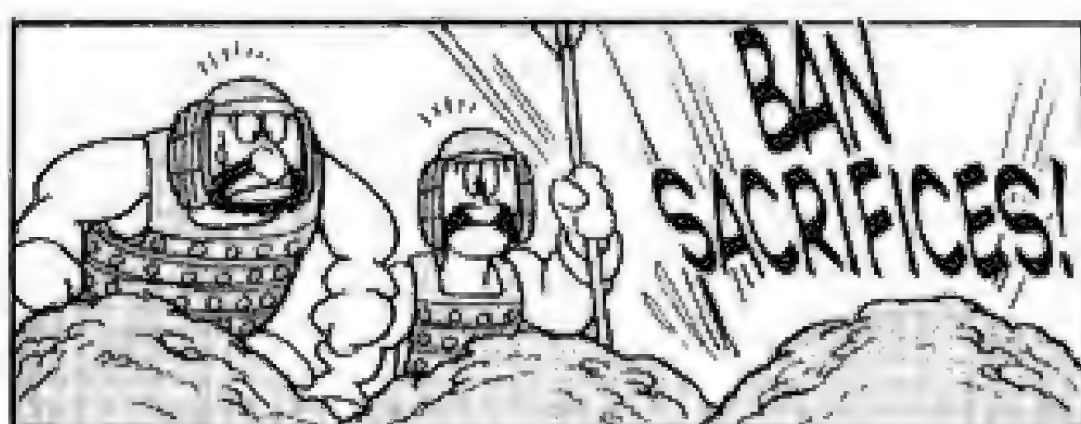
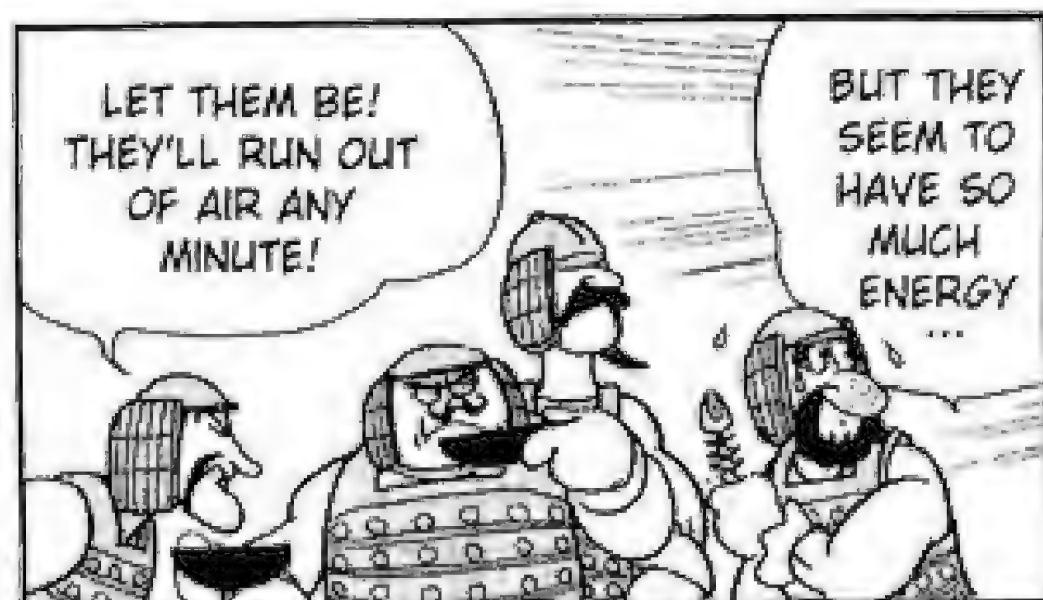


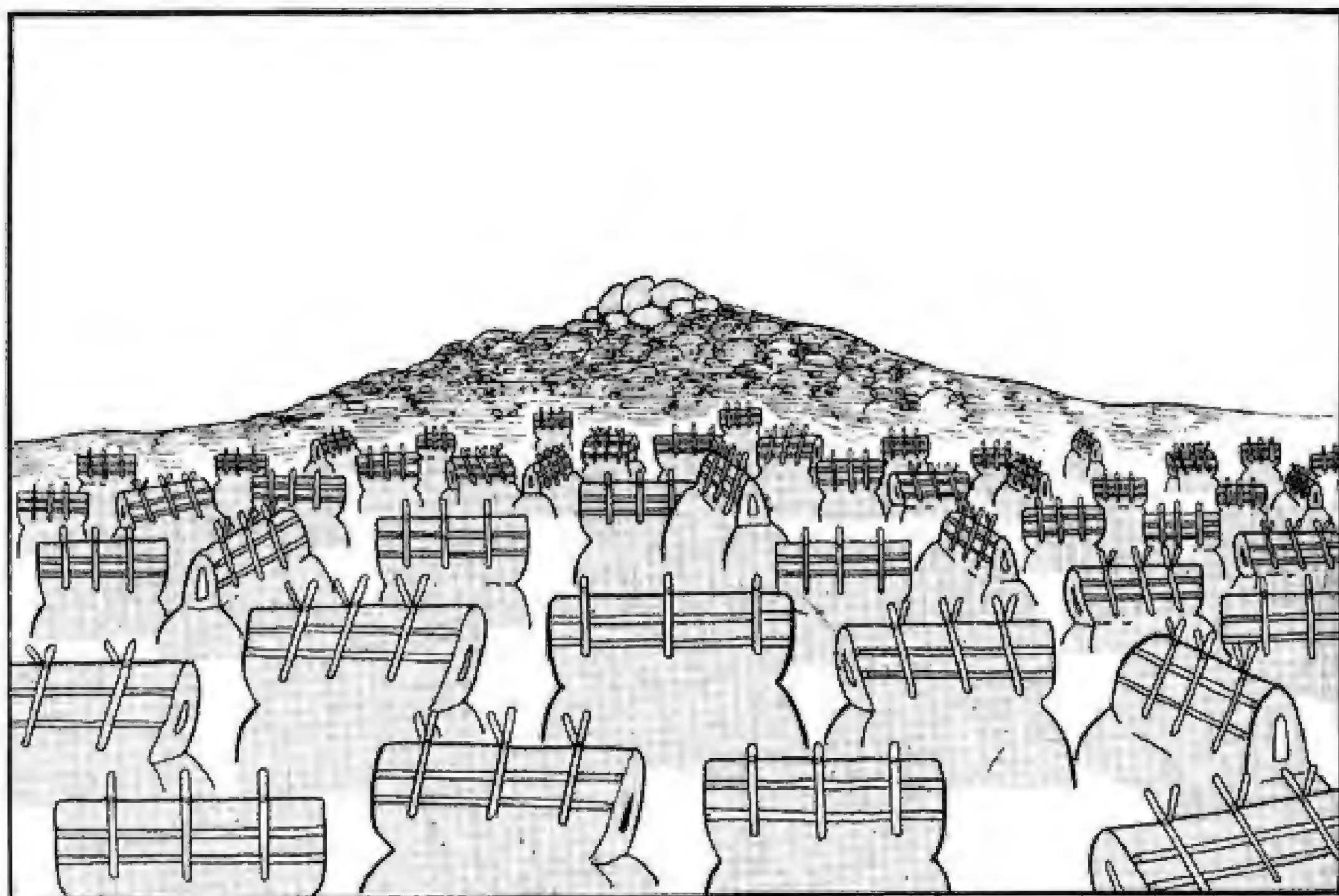












WHAT'S THAT SINGING?

IT'S THE SACRIFICES, SIR. WE DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT THEY'RE STILL ALIVE!



PILE MORE DIRT ON THEM. DO SOMETHING TO STOP THAT INFERNAL NOISE!

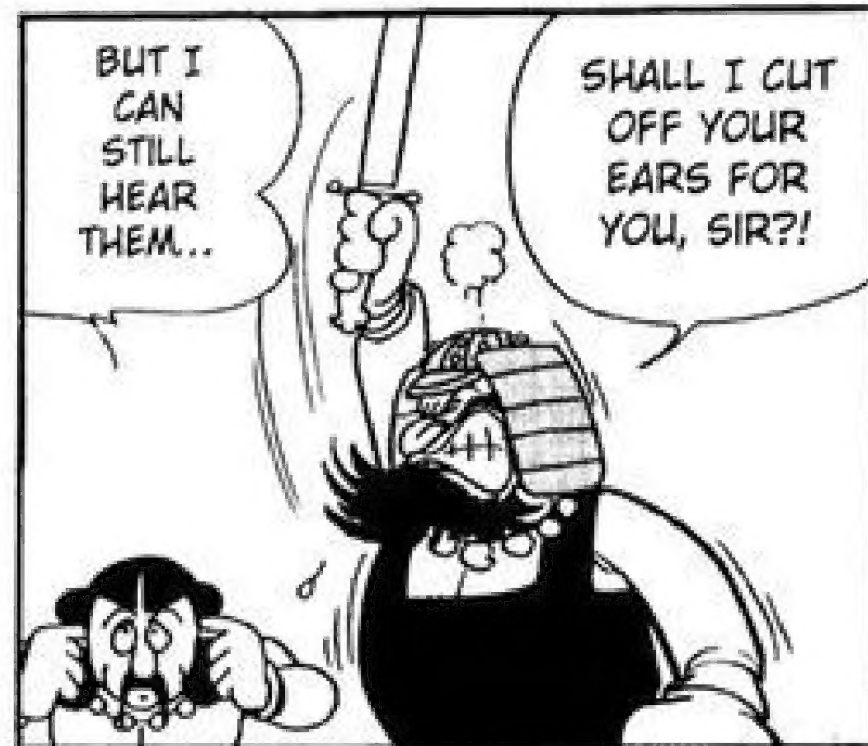
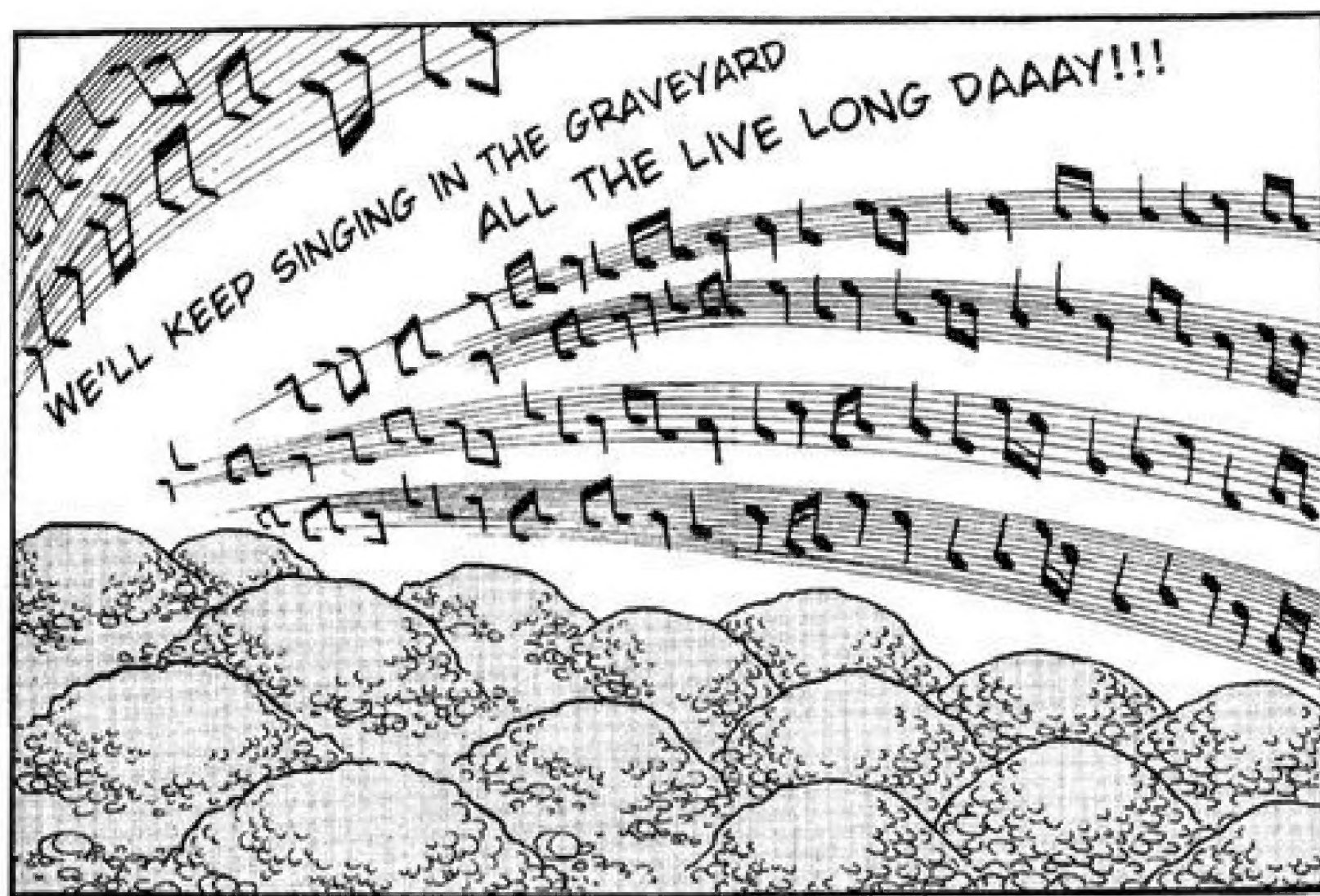
YES SIR!



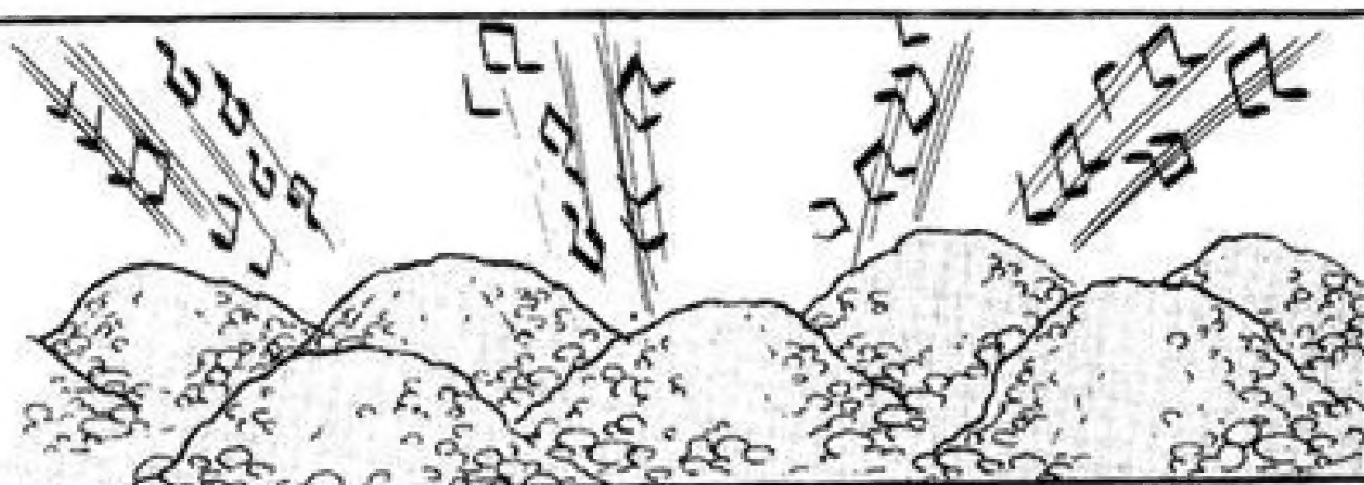
PLEASE, WE BEG YOU... HURRY UP AND DIE.



NOOO!



A YEAR PASSED...AS THE
EFFECT OF THE PHOENIX'S
BLOOD WORE OFF, PEOPLE
DIED, ONE BY ONE...BUT
THOSE WHO SURVIVED,
KEPT ON SINGING.



KAJIKA,
WHAT'S
THE
MATTER?



I FEEL
FAINT...THE
EFFECT IS
WEARING
OFF...I THINK
I'M GOING
TO DIE...



I...I THINK
I'M
NEARING
THE END
TOO,
KAJIKI.



AREN'T
YOU
AFRAID,
OGUNA?



NO, I'M
SATISFIED. I'VE
DONE MY BEST,
AND I HAVE NO
REGRETS.

AND
BESIDES...
I'M
WITH
YOU.



KAJIKI,
I LOVE
YOU!



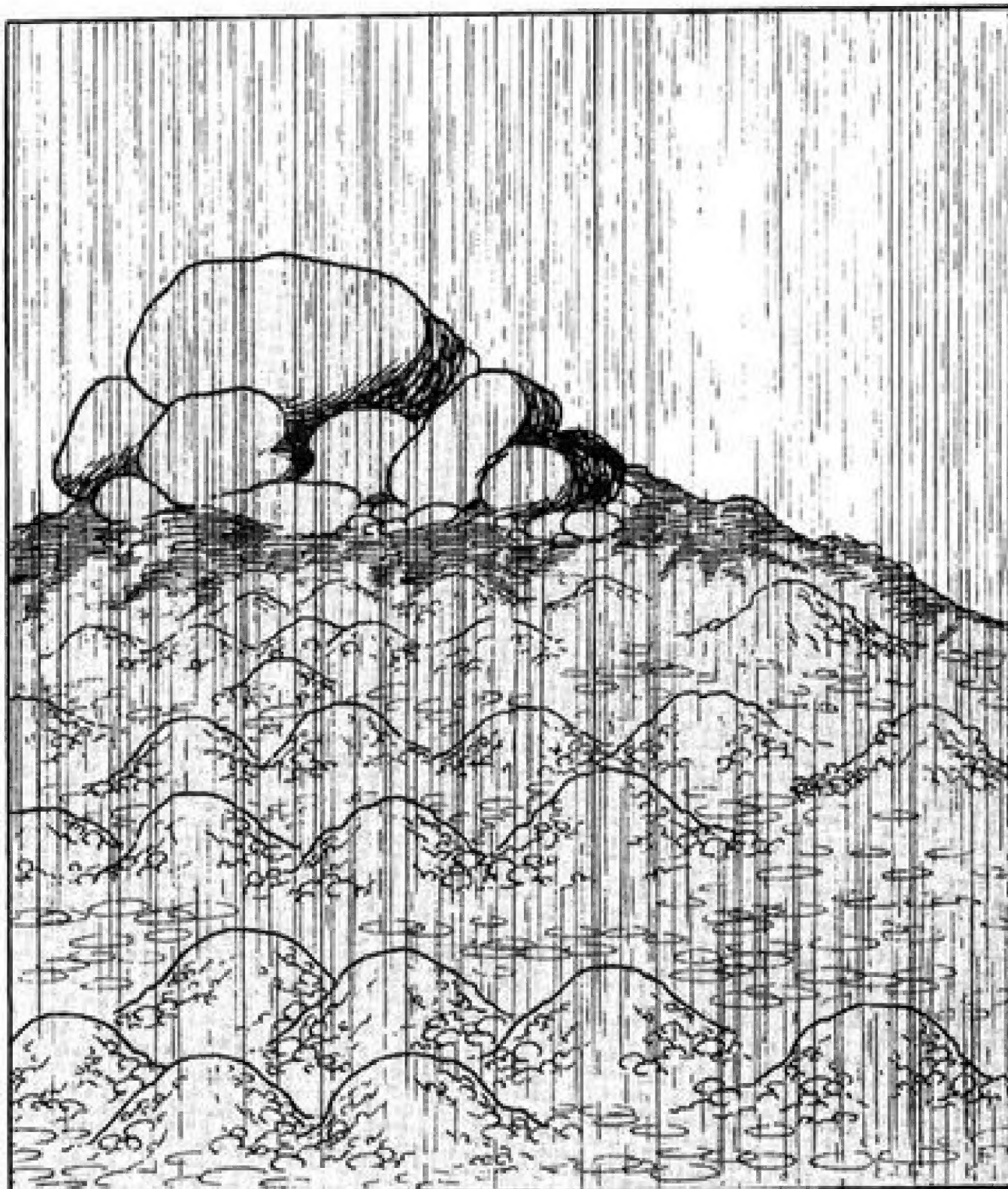
I'M SO
HAPPY
OGUNA!



I LOVE
YOU
TOO.

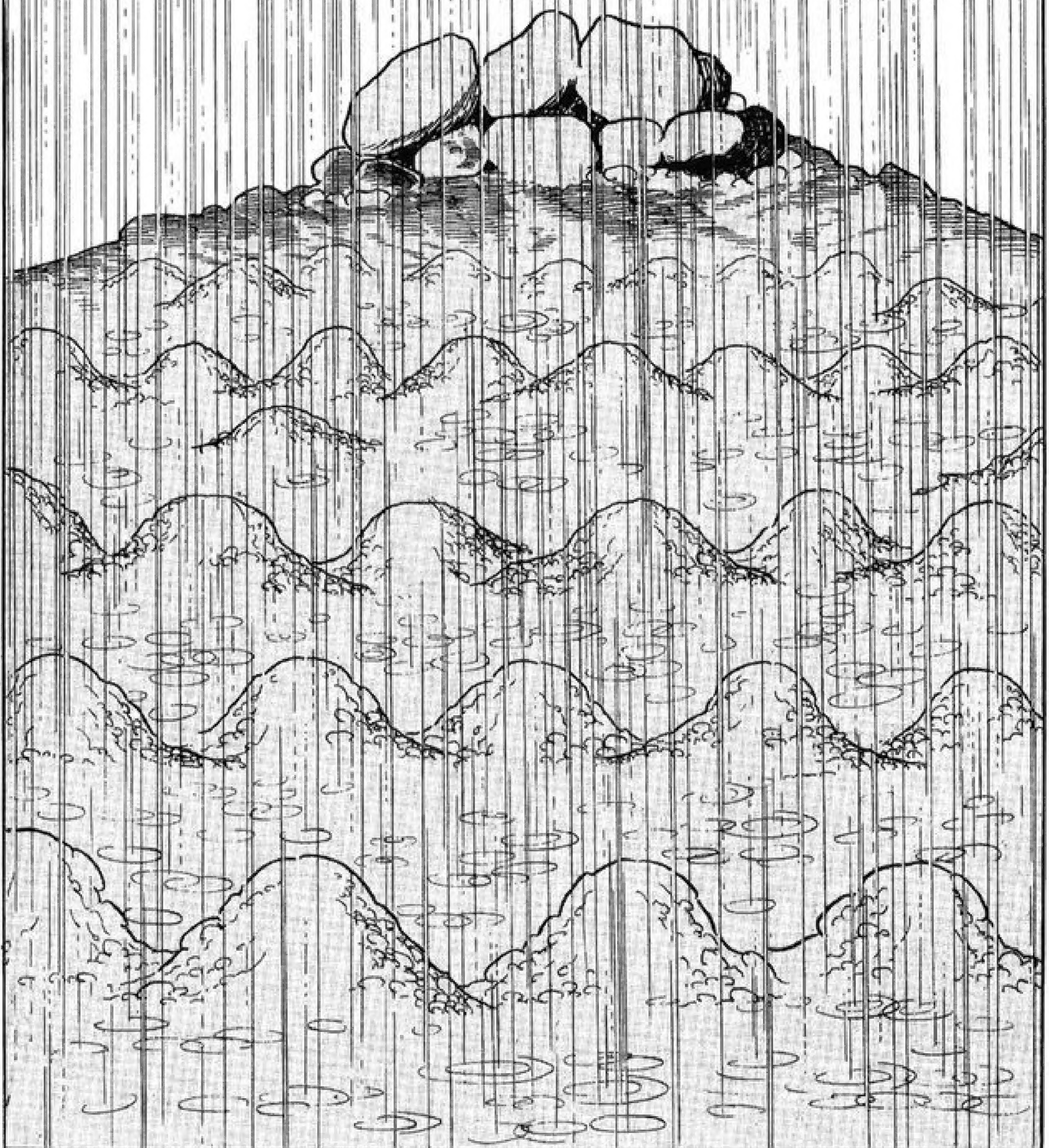
WE'LL BE
TOGETHER
ETERNALLY...

E-
ETERNALLY...



FINALLY
THE LAST
SACRIFICE
PERISHED...
AND THE
TOMB FELL
SILENT...

SOMETIME
LATER, ARTISANS
BEGAN TO
PRODUCE CLAY
FIGURINES WHICH
WERE PLACED
AROUND GRAVE
SITES...AND THE
CUSTOM OF
BURYING LIVING
SACRIFICES WAS
ABOLISHED.



IN ASUKA, OF NARA
PREFECTURE, JAPAN, LIES
THE STONE TOMB OF A
HALF COMPLETED BURIAL
MOUND.
WHY WAS IT LEFT EXPOSED
AND UNFINISHED?
PERHAPS THE KING WHO
WAS BURIED THERE RAN
INTO SOME UNFORESEEN
DIFFICULTIES...

